GENERAL CONDITIONS

While it is not possible to list here all of the conditions prescribed by the governing body for organizing, officiating and competing in Three-Day Events, listed below are the primary factors relating to entry of horses and riders into the competition, the welfare of the horse during the competition, and the method of determining a competitor's starting times.

RULES
This event is conducted in accordance with the rules of the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI). It also is recognized by the U.S. Equestrian Federation.

THE FEI STAR SYSTEM
The levels of Three-Day Events (CCIs) are indicated by Stars (*). The four levels of International Three-Day Events are:
One Star (* or 1*) - An introduction to the Three-Day Event for competitors and horses.
Two Star (** or 2*) - For competitors with some experience in Three-Day Events on horses just beginning international competition.
Three Star (*** or 3*) - For competitors and horses with some international experience.
Four Star (**** or 4*) - For experienced and successful combinations of international competitors and horses.

MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT AND CERTIFICATION OF COMPETITORS AND HORSES (CCI*)***
In order to compete at an international event, a rider and horse must have obtained a Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER) at a number of events at a lower level. The requirements are laid out below.

Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER)
An MER for a Four Star CCI is achieved by completing a competition within minimum parameters of all around performance as follows:

a) Dressage Test: not more than 75 penalty points.

b) Cross Country Test:

- A clear round (0 penalties) at obstacles for CIC (international horse trials) and maximum 20 penalties at a CCI.
- Not more than 120 seconds exceeding the optimum time.

c) Jumping Test: not more than 16 penalties at obstacles.

Each National Federation (NF) must certify the qualification of each horse and rider and list the competitions which enabled horse and rider to qualify, according to the qualification procedure established for each star level as laid out in Art. 506.

Certification of Minimum Eligibility Requirements for Events
All NFs, including the host nation, are responsible to certify that riders and horses entered by them in International events are correctly qualified in accordance with all the requirements of the Rules.

All qualifying events must be identified, and any national events must be certified as of at least the equivalent standard of difficulty as the relevant international star level of competition.

The Technical Delegate or his nominee shall check that all horses and riders starting at all International events are properly certified as qualified by their NF or duly exempted in accordance with this article.

Qualifying Period and Deadline
MERs for CCIs must be obtained in the calendar year in question or the two (2) preceding calendar years.

The deadline for obtaining the final MER for a CCI is 24 days before the Cross-Country Test.

Required Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MERs) for CCI 4*
Minimum 3 MERs required:
2x CCI 3*
plus 2x CIC 3*

WELFARE OF THE HORSE
Both the FEI and the U.S. EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION, have specific rules covering the welfare of the horse in competitions recognized by these two governing bodies of equestrian sport.

In addition, the FEI has issued the following Code of Conduct for all people involved with competing horses in the disciplines covered by this international federation of equestrian organizations. The U.S. Equestrian Federation is the National Equestrian Federation (NF) of the United States and is a member of the FEI and its Statement of Principle also follows.

FEI CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE WELFARE OF THE HORSE
The Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) requires all those involved in international equestrian sport to adhere to the FEI's Code of Conduct and to acknowledge and accept that at all times the welfare of the horse must be paramount and must never be subordinated to competitive or commercial influences.
1. At all stages during the preparation and training of Competition Horses, welfare must take precedence over all other demands.
    a) Good Horses management - Stabling, feeding and training must be compatible with good horse management and must not compromise welfare. Any practices which could cause physical or mental suffering, in or out of Competition, will not be tolerated.
    b) Training methods - Horses must only undergo training that matches their physical capabilities and level of maturity for their respective disciplines. They must not be subjected to any training methods which are abusive or cause fear or for which they have not been properly prepared.
    c) Farriery and tack - Foot care and shoeing must be of a high standard. Tack must be designed and fitted to avoid the risk of pain or injury.
    d) Transport - During transportation, Horses must be fully protected against injuries and other health risks. Vehicles must be safe, well ventilated, maintained to a high standard, disinfected regularly and driven by competent staff. Competent handlers must always be available to manage the Horses.
    e) Transit - All journeys must be planned carefully, and Horses allowed regular rest periods with access to food and water in line with current FEI guidelines.

2. Horses and Athletes must be fit, competent and in good health before they are allowed to compete.
    a) Fitness and competence - Participation in Competition must be restricted to fit Horses and Athletes of proven competence.
    b) Health status - No Horse showing symptoms of disease, lameness or other significant ailments or pre-existing clinical conditions should compete or continue to compete when to do so would compromise its welfare. Veterinary advice must be sought whenever there is any doubt.
    c) Doping and Medication - Abuse of doping and medication is a serious welfare issue and will not be tolerated. After any veterinary treatment, sufficient time must be allowed for full recovery before Competition.
    d) Surgical procedures - Any surgical procedures that threaten a competing Horse’s welfare or the safety of other Horses and/or Athletes must not be allowed.
    e) Pregnant/recently foaled mares - Mares must not compete after their fourth month of pregnancy or with foal at foot.

f) Misuse of aids - Abuse of a Horse using natural riding aids or artificial aids (e.g. whips, spurs, etc.) will not be tolerated.

3. Events must not prejudice Horse welfare.

a) Competition areas - Horses must only be trained and compete on suitable and safe surfaces. All obstacles must be designed with the safety of the Horse in mind.

b) Ground surfaces - All ground surfaces on which Horses walk, train or compete must be designed and maintained to reduce factors that could lead to injuries. Particular attention must be paid to the preparation, composition and upkeep of surfaces.

c) Extreme weather - Competitions must not take place in extreme weather conditions if the welfare or safety of the Horse may be compromised. Provision must be made for cooling Horses quickly after competing.

d) Stabling at Events - Stables must be safe, hygienic, comfortable, well ventilated and of sufficient size for the type and disposition of the Horse. Clean, good quality and appropriate feed and bedding, fresh drinking water, and washing-down water must always be available.

e) Fitness to travel - After Competition, a Horse must be fit to travel in accordance with the FEI's guidelines.

4. Every effort must be made to ensure that Horses receive proper attention after they have competed and that they are treated humanely when their Competition careers are over.

a) Veterinary treatment - Veterinary expertise must always be available at an Event. If a Horse is injured or exhausted during a Competition, the Athlete must dismount and a veterinarian must check the Horse.

b) Referral centers - Wherever necessary, the Horse should be collected by ambulance and transported to the nearest relevant treatment centre for further assessment and therapy. Injured Horses must be given full supportive treatment before transport.

c) Competition injuries - The incidence of injuries sustained in Competition should be monitored. Ground surface conditions, frequency of Competitions and any other risk factors should be examined carefully to indicate ways to minimize injuries.

d) Euthanasia - If injuries are sufficiently severe the Horse may need to be euthanized by a veterinarian as soon as possible on humane grounds and with the sole aim of minimizing suffering.

e) Retirement - Every effort should be made to ensure that Horses are treated sympathetically and humanely when they retire from Competition.

5. The FEI urges all those involved in equestrian sport to attain the highest possible levels of education in their areas of expertise relevant to the care and management of the Competition Horse.

This Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse may be modified from time to time and the views of all are welcomed. Particular attention will be paid to new research findings and the FEI encourages further funding and support for welfare studies.

EXAMINATIONS AND INSPECTIONS OF HORSES

At all Three-Day Events, examinations and inspections of the horses are prescribed to ensure that each horse is in the necessary condition to begin the competition and continue through the successive tests of the competition.

Examination Upon Arrival

This takes place on the arrival of horses at the stables of the Event. It is performed by a qualified veterinarian appointed by the Organizing Committee. The purpose is to establish first, each horse's identity and veterinary history and second, each horse's state of health. Doubtful cases must be reported to the Ground Jury or Appeal Committee as appropriate, as soon as practicable and, in any case, before the First Horse Inspection.

First Horse Inspection

This takes place before the Dressage Test, normally the day before. It is conducted by the Ground Jury and the Veterinary Delegate acting together as a Committee with the President of the Ground Jury in charge. The horses must be inspected in hand, at rest and in movement on a firm, level, and clean but not slippery surface. The Committee has the right and the duty to eliminate from the Competition any horse that they judge is unfit, whether on account of lameness, lack of condition or for any other reason. In a doubtful case, the Ground Jury

may direct that the horse be put in an officially supervised holding area for examination by the Associate Veterinarian. He will report any findings to the Ground Jury and the Veterinary Delegate, prior to the horse being reinspected by the committee, should the athlete decide to represent the horse. In the event of equality of votes within the Committee, the President of the Ground Jury will have a second and casting vote, and the decision will be announced immediately.

Examination After Cross-Country Test
This takes place at the end of the Cross-Country. It is conducted by a qualified veterinarian appointed by the Organizing Committee, in agreement with the Veterinary Delegate. In addition to carrying out any immediate treatment required by an injured or exhausted horse, this veterinarian will decide if each horse:
1. Is fit to return immediately on foot to the stables,
2. Should remain for further treatment before returning to the stables,
3. Should be transported by vehicle either directly to the stables or to a veterinary hospital.
This veterinarian has no authority to eliminate any horse from the Competition, but must report any doubtful case to the Ground Jury and to the Veterinary Delegate.

This takes place before the Jumping Test. It is conducted by the same Committee and under the same conditions as the First Horse Inspection.

Appeal
At the two Inspections where a horse may be eliminated from the Competition, there can be no appeal against the decision of the Committee concerned. However, if requested, the President must give a reason for the Committee's decision after the completion of the whole inspection.

During the Competition
At any other time during the Competition, any individual member of the Ground Jury has the right and the duty to eliminate any horse that in his opinion is lame or unfit to continue.

All athletes that have had a fall during training or competition must be examined by the Official Medical Officer before they either take part in another test, competition or leave the event site. The athlete is fully responsible for ensuring that this examination takes place and in the case of a horse fall, that the horse is examined by the Official Veterinarian.

ORDER OF STARTING/RIDE TIMES
The order of starting, which will be the same for the Dressage and Cross-Country Tests, is fixed by draw. The Jumping Test will be run in reverse order of placing after the conclusion of the Cross-Country Test. The lowest placed athlete will start first, and the last athlete to jump will be the first placed athlete.