



## 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.

Five Star Major (\*\*\*\*\* or 5\*) - Five star level Competitions require the maximum level of training and experience from both Athlete and Horse.

### **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 45 penalty points (or 55%).
- b) Cross-Country Test:
  - A clear round at obstacles (activating a maximum of one frangible device will maintain the MER result on Cross-Country)
  - Not more than 75 seconds exceeding the optimum time in the Cross-Country Test for, two, three and four star level Competitions and 100 seconds in the case of five star level Competitions.
- c) Jumping Test: not more than 16 penalties at obstacles.

**NOTE:** All MERs obtained in previous years will be counted according to the rules in place at that time.

#### ***Minimum Eligibility Requirement Validity period***

### **Championships**

The valid period for obtaining a Minimum Eligibility Requirement is from the preceding calendar year to the closing date of the nominated entries.

### **CIs & CIOs:**

The valid period for obtaining a Minimum Eligibility Requirement is anytime until:

- a) At least 24 days before the Cross-Country Test of the Competition for which is needed if the MER has

been achieved at a Long Format Competition (CCIs-L).

- b) At least 10 days before the Cross-Country Test of the Competition for which is needed if it has been achieved at a Short Format Competition (CCIs-S).

### **Athletes Categories**

FEI Athlete categories for Eventing define a recognition of proven competence of the Athlete at a certain level.

Athletes will be categorized (Uncategorized International, D, C, B, A) according to their performance in a rolling eight years period as defined in the following table.

D	Fifteen (15) MER at FEI short (CCIs-S) or long (CCIs-L) format Competitions of two star level or above; or five (5) MERs at FEI CCI short (CCIs-S) or long format (CCIs-L) competitions at higher level.
C	Fifteen (15) MER at FEI CCIs short (CCIs-S) or long (CCIs-L) format Competitions of three star level or above; or five (5) MERs at FEI CCIs short (CCIs-S) or long format (CCIs-L) competitions at higher level.
B	Fifteen (15) MER at FEI CCI short (CCIs-S) or long (CCIs-L) format Competitions of four star level or above; or five (5) MERs at FEI long format (CCIs-L) competitions at five star level.
A	Fifteen (15) MER at FEI CCI short (CCIs-S) or long (CCIs-L) format Competitions of four star level or above of which five at five star level.

The Athlete category will be updated according to the performances on 1st of July and at the end of each calendar year taking into account the rolling eight years.

### ***Minimum Eligibility Requirements for CIs and CIOs***

The following table details the requirements needed to be entered in the different formats, categories and levels of international Competitions. NFs are required to set national participation requirements as per Art 516 to apply for all categorisations.

Exceptions for MERs:

- The 1st activation of a frangible/deformable device (11 penalties) will still allow a MER.
- When multiple Minimum Eligibility Requirements are required (for CIs and CIOs), one of the Minimum Eligibility Requirements can be achieved incurring 20 penalties at the obstacles of the Cross-Country Test (See below for Minimum Eligibility Requirements for Championships & Games).

### ***Athletes not yet categorised at the level of the Competition***

For Athletes not yet categorised at the level of the Competition the Minimum Eligibility Requirements must be achieved as a combination according to the following table:

#### **Short format: Include MER obtained as per NF Requirements**

CCI2*-S	All Athletes	NF requirements only
CCI3*-S	Uncategorised Athletes	1 CCI2*-S
	D Athletes	NF requirements
CCI4*-S	Uncategorised or D or C Athletes	2 CCI3*-S

#### **Long format: Include MER obtained as per NF Requirements**

CCI2*-L	All Athletes, new introductory level	NF requirements
CCI3*-L	Uncategorised Athletes	1 CCI3*-S and (1 CCI2*-L or CCI3*-S)
	D Athletes	1 CCI3*-L or 1 CCI2*-L
CCI4*-L	Uncategorised or D or C Athletes	1 CCI3*-L and 1 CCI4*-S
CCI4* CCI5*-L	Uncategorised or D or C Athletes	2 CCI4*-L and 2CCI4*-S
	B Athletes	1 CCI4*-L and 3 CCI4*-S

### ***Athletes already categorised at the level of the Competition***

Athletes already categorised at the corresponding level or above, can either use the full requirements for uncategorised Athletes as per Art 520.1 as a combination or the Minimum Eligibility Requirements according to the following table:

#### **Short format: Include MER obtained as per NF Requirements**

CIC 1* CCI2*-S	All Athletes	NF requirements only
CIC 2* CCI3*-S	C or B or A FEI Athletes	NF requirements only
CIC 3* CCI4*-S	B or A FEI Athletes	1 CCI3*-S (Horse only)

#### **Long format: incl. MER obtained as per NF Requirements**

CCI 1* CCI2*-L	All Athletes	NF requirements only
CCI 2* CCI3*-L	C or B or A FEI Athletes	1 CCI2*-L or 1 CCI3*-S (Horse only)
CCI 3* CCI4*-L	B or A FEI Athletes	1 CCI3*-L (Horse only)
CCI 4* CCI5*-L	A FEI Athletes	1 CCI4*-L (as a combination)

**NOTE:** NFs have the option to apply to use CNs (National Competitions) for qualification purposes only to replace events cancelled due weather conditions and/or exceptional circumstances.

Targeted CNs are those for which the FEI has received and approved a request from the relevant NF for this specific purpose. MERs obtained at the specific targeted national Events will only count for upgrade in the same year and not for Athletes categorisation.

The application must be sent a minimum of 4 weeks before the Event. An FEI Level 3 Technical Delegate must function at the Event taking responsibility for the technical standards/level of the Competition and must report to the FEI (TD report) including full results.

#### **Unified Format:**

CCI1*- Intro	All Athletes	NF requirements only
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#### ***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 of abuse 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.