



# F.I.H.B.

# GENERAL RULES

## VER 2.0

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## **CHAPTER I - INTRODUCTION AND DEFINITIONS**

### ***Article 1:***

Welfare of horse is paramount.

### ***Article 2: GENERAL REGULATIONS AND SPORT RULES***

2.1 The General Regulations (GRs) are established so that individual competitors and teams of competitors from different ONHB may compete against each other under fair and equal conditions. If there is any doubt about the meaning of any of the regulations they should be interpreted in the sense of insuring fair conditions for all competitors.

2.2 The GRs, together with the Veterinary Regulations (VRs) and Equine Anti-Doping and Medication Control Rules (EADMCRs), govern the conduct of all international equestrian events organised by an ONHB or by or on behalf of the federation (FIHB). The GRs are published under the authority of the FIHB General Assembly.

2.3 The GRs have been drawn up in the broadest possible spirit so as to allow Organising Committees (OCs) the fullest freedom in the management of their event and in the preparation of their programmes, accordingly with the Organisation Rules (ORs) approved by the FIHB.

2.4 Horse-Ball rules of the game are published under the authority of the FIHB General Assembly, and all the others sport rules and regulations are published under the authority of the Bureau.

2.5 Anti-doping Rules for Human Athletes are published under the authority of the FEI General Assembly.

2.6 FIHB Statutes, GRs and sport rules apply to international event and or competitions as laid down in Chapter II.

2.7 The Sport Rules must be read in conjunction with the GRs, and the VRs. In case of conflict of interpretation between the provision of any of the sport rules the principles of the GRs shall take precedence.

2.8 ONHBs are responsible for the implementation by OCs, of the statutes, the GRs and Sport Rules, and shall be responsible for prize money in instances in which a working agreement has been entered into by and among the FIHB, the ONHB and the OC. ONHBs shall also ensure that the welfare of the horse is paramount and that it must never be subordinated to competitive or commercial influence, shall supervise OCs management of any event, and shall ensure the implementation of draft schedules submitted to the FIHB.

2.9 All clubs and societies affiliated to an ONHB and all OCs must abide by the GRs and Sport Rules when organising international events or competitions.

2.10 in cases of doubt about the interpretations of the statutes, GRs and Sport rules or their application to particular circumstances, ONHB or OCs should obtain a ruling from the FIHB Bureau.

2.11 It is the responsibility of OCs to take such measures as may be necessary to cover their financial and legal liabilities, such as guaranteeing the prize money.

2.12 in case of rules not specify in the GRs, Sport Rules, FEI rules will apply.

### ***Article 3: DEFINITIONS***

3.1 The term “event” refers to the complete meeting, “Show”, “Championship”, “Games” or “Tournament”.

3.2 The term “Competition” refers to each individual class in which competitors are places in an order of merit and for which prizes may be awarded.



3.3 The term “Category” refers to the group of competitors for whom the Event or Competition is organised.

3.4 The term “Organiser” or “Organising Committee” (OC) refers to any organisation, group, society, body or person which is recognised by the applicable ONHB and held to be responsible for the management of any Event.

3.5 The period of an Event commences one hour before the first Team Leaders meeting and terminates one hour after the reward Ceremony.

3.6 The term “Horse” refers also to a pony or other member of the genus Equus unless the context requires otherwise. A horse shall be born from a mare.

3.7 The term “Official” refers to a person appointed by the FIHB or by an OC and/or NF to perform a specifically defined officiating duty at an FIHB event as stated in the OR’s.

3.8 The term “Sport Rules” (SRs) refers to the rules of the game shall include but not be limited to the Horse-Ball Rules, VRs, FEI Equine Anti-Doping and FEI Medication Control Rules for Human Athletes.

3.9 The term “Competition rules” (CRs) refers to specific rules for a specific competition for one or more categories.

3.10 The term “IRC” means the International Referee Committee of the FIHB

3.11 Any other terms with a capitalized letter hereinafter are defined in the Statutes.

#### ***Article 4: DEFINITION OF EVENTS***

FIHB, recognised the following events:

4.1 International Events – World Championship, European Championship, Intercontinental Championship, Champions League and Regional Tournament.

4.2. National Events – National Championships, National Cups, National Tournaments.



## **CHAPTER II - EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS**

### ***Article 5: NATIONAL EVENTS***

5.1 A National Event (NE) is normally limited to national teams who may take part according to the regulations of their ONHB. Foreign players may only take part under paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 below or under Art 20.

5.2 Individual foreign player, other than “players living abroad” (FEI GR Art 123.7), may take part in NEs provided they have obtained written permission from their own ONHB and from the ONHB of the OC concerned.

5.3 Not counting “Players Living Abroad” (FEI GR Art 123.7), the number of foreign players who may take part at the NE shall, subject to the law of the European Union if applicable, be as defined in the sport rules for Horse-Ball.

5.4 Unless otherwise specified in the sport rules, special promotional, border and riding club events which are of a low level and offer no or nominal prize money may be organised under the rules for NEs of the host ONHB with foreign teams.

### ***Article 6: INTERNATIONAL EVENTS***

6.1 An International Event (IE) must be organised under the FIHB Statutes, GRs, ORs, Competition Rules and Sport Rules, including any specific invitation rules that may be established by the relevant technical committee and may be open to teams of all ONHBs.

6.2 Schedules for IEs must state the total number of foreign teams and horses which are invited.

### ***Article 7: OFFICIAL INTERNATIONAL EVENTS***

7.1 An Official International Event (OIE) is an event of which ONHBs are invited to send selected representatives teams and must be organised under the FIHB statutes, GRs, ORs, CRs and Sport Rules. The dates and locations must be proposed by the relevant ONHB and approved by the Bureau and publish in the official calendar that once published the date and or location of a OIE may only be changed in very exceptional circumstances with the approval of the Bureau. Changes of date or locations must be published as soon as possible.

7.2 OIEs must use the official logo of the FIHB and FEI on all posters and on the front page of all schedules and programmes.

### ***Article 8: CHAMPIONSHIPS***

8.1 The competitions of all FIHB IEs and OIEs must be organised under the FEI rules and the FIHB CRs, SRs and ORs.

8.2 The organisation and the distributions of the Championships are allocated by the FIHB Bureau.

8.3 The Championships have priority of all NEs and IEs.

8.4 In all IEs and OIEs the programmes must follow the FIHB/FEI International Event Programme.



## ***Article 9: FIHB-NAMED EVENTS***

9.1 FIHB named events are the FIHB championships, (World, Europeans, intercontinental and Champions League) or the one's that has been established by the Bureau. They shall be implemented in co-operation with the relevant ONHB and OCs.

9.2 The title of all such events and competitions shall always be preceded by the letters FIHB.

9.3 If a FIHB-named event as a title sponsor, the sponsor name may appear in conjunction with the relevant title.

9.4 FIHB event must use the official logos of the FIHB and FEI on all posters and on the front page of all schedules and programmes.

## ***Article 10: ALLOCATION OF FIHB INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND FIHB NAMED EVENTS.***

10.1 Only the NF's may apply for the organisation of OIE's

10.2 For OIEs the "Agreement between FIHB and NF/OC" shall also apply. The allocation shall be decided by the bureau.

10.3 In regard to all OIEs NFs must apply by the 15<sup>th</sup> of May or an earlier date decided by the bureau two years before the OIEs is due to take place. The allocation will be decided by the bureau. If no or no suitable application to organise an Event has been received within the presented time limit, an appropriate allocation may be made by the bureau.

10.4 When applying NFs must submit the location and the date on which they intent to organise the OIE and must agree to comply with the FIHB Agreement.

## ***Article 11: FIHB MEDALS***

FIHB Medals shall be awarded to participated teams in order of merit at OIEs according to the Sport Rules.

## ***Article 12: COMPETITIONS***

12.1 Separate Competitions for the following standard categories of players may be included in the schedules for all Events unless stated otherwise in the Sport Rules:

12.1.1: Seniors

12.1.2: Young Riders

12.1.3: Juniors

12.1.4: Pony riders

12.1.5: Children

12.2 Separate competitions may be included for special categories of players, such as: ladies, Students, Military, etc.

12.3 In competitions open to more than one category, a separate classification may be used to decide the winner of each Category.



### ***Article 13: TITLES OF COMPETITIONS***

13.1 The name “World”, “European” or name of continents, regions or other group of nations or countries as title of competitions, Cups of any other classification may only be used with the approval of the bureau.

13.2 The use of other names given to an event taking place under the jurisdiction of one or more than one ONHB requires the approval of the bureau and the ONHBs concerned.

### ***Article 14: ORGANISATION OF EVENTS***

14.1 The schedule for all IEs and OIEs, must clearly state the FEI statutes, FIHB statutes, GRs VRs, Sport Rules and all the decisions taken by the Bureau or by the General Assembly apply.

14.2 international competitions may never be held under national rules.

14.3 If a competition under national rules is included during the course of IEs and OIEs the FIHB Sport Rules come into force as soon as the result of the competition under national rules has been announced.

14.4 With the approval of the FIHB the OIE may include another category or a IE for competitions in an other discipline or other disciplines.

14.5 Schedules, notices, instructions and announcements over the public address system at all international event must be written or spoken in official language in addition to the national language except in cases where all concerned speak the same language.

14.6 OCs of international events must provide adequate medical and veterinarian assistance at the event and a sufficient number of ambulances where possible so that first aid is constantly available

14.7 OCs of international events must follow strictly the “Organisation Rules” (ORs) approved by the bureau.

### ***Article 15: OFFICIAL CALENDAR***

15.1 The Bureau approves the official calendar for the following year and a provisional a long term calendar for the two succeeding years.

15.2 The dated for FIHB Championships, FIHB International Events and other Named Events shall be published as soon as possible after allocation.

15.3 The FIHB Official Calendar will follow this time schedule :

15.3.1 T-6 months: a writing proposal, including date, place and financial conditions, from the OC should be sent to the FIHB Competition Commission through their NFs.

15.3.2 T-5 months: a formal answer from FIHB to OC, through their NFs will confirmed or not the insertion in the Official Calendar.

15.3.3 T-4 OC shall provide an “Avant Programme” with details as stated in the ORs.

15.3.4 T-3 all participants NFs must return their participation on principle to the OC copy the FIHB.

15.3.5 T-2 all participants NFs must return their nominative entry from the OC, copy FIHB.

15.3.6 T-1 all participants NFs must return their definitive entry from the OC, copy FIHB.

15.4 Any changes on dates or place for the Official Calendar must be approved by the bureau.

15.5 Priority of FIHB Championships and other high level events may be regulated in the Sport Rules.

15.6 No ONHB or OCs may organise any international Event which has not been published in the official calendar or approved by the bureau.



## ***Article 16: CEREMONIES***

16.1 Opening, Prize-giving and Closing Ceremonies may follow local custom but they must include the procedures laid down in the following paragraphs.

16.2 The representative of the FIHB, or if no representative is present, the President of the Ground Jury must be invited to participate in the Opening, Prize-giving and Closing Ceremonies of all FIHB Championships.

16.3 All players invited to be present at these ceremonies, must remain mounted on the horses on which they have competed. If a podium is used for the prize-winners, the players may be asked to dismount. Ground Jury should have the ability to approve a substitution.

16.4 The FIHB representative, or the FEI, or the Foreign Judge, must present the FIHB medals and Trophies before any other prizes are presented by the OC or sponsors.

16.5 Opportunities should be taken at these ceremonies and during the course of the Event to mention that the Event is under the patronage of the FIHB.

16.6 The prize-giving Ceremony for FIHB Championships must take place immediately after the end of the competition.

16.7 OCs should avoid the necessity for Horses to stand for long periods before and during these ceremonies.

## ***Article 17: COMMERCIAL RIGHTS***

17.1 The FIHB owns its title and logos, the titles, logos and Competition formulae of all FIHB championships and other FIHB-named Events, Series and Competitions established under the authority of the FIHB as mentioned in Art 3 and 4.

17.1.1 The FIHB owns the Official International Ranking Lists resulting from the ranking of players and Horses competing at the Events and Competitions held under its authority.

17.1.2 The FIHB has the exclusive right to exploit the aforesaid properties through all media, including new media, Internet and TV in all its forms, as well as for sponsorship and marketing purposes according to the conditions laid down in paragraphs 17.2 and 17.3 below.

17.2 With regards to FIHB Championships and other FIHB-named Events, an relevant NF and OC, which defines their respective rights and duties related to the exploitation of all commercial properties and the possible sharing of the revenues there from.

17.2.1 The Agreement shall recognise previous commitments of the relevant NF and OC and resolve any possible conflicts.

17.2.2 Subject to the provisions in paragraph 17.3, the normal basis for the Agreement will be the licence to the relevant NF and OC of the commercial properties for a fee pre-established by the Bureau for each Category of FIHB championship or Event and possible profit sharing.

17.2.3 With regards to the FIHB-named Series and Competitions organised as a part of other Events, the Agreement shall be reached between the FIHB and the relevant NF and OC which shall respect previous commitments of the relevant NF and OC, unless otherwise agreed.

17.3 The Agreement must be finalised before the Bureau confirms the final allocation of the Event, Series or Competition. The exploitation of all commercial properties and TV rights must be negotiated in such way as to assure the feasibility of the Event, Series or Competition concerned, taking into consideration the technical and sporting conditions and the promotion of the Horse-Ball.



## **CHAPTER III - PARTICIPATION OF TEAMS AND PLAYERS**

### ***Article 18: INVITATIONS***

18.1 Invitations for teams to take part in IEs and OIEs must be sent to the NFs of the players concerned. Invitations from OCs must be sent to the NFs of the players concerned. Invitations must include copies of the schedule.

18.2 Invitations to take part in OIEs may only be sent from the host NF directly to other NFs and must stipulate the number of individual entries than can be accepted.

18.3 At OIEs the number of invited NFs may be limited according to the schedule of the Event as approved by the FIHB and the Sport Rules.

18.4 Unless the relevant Sport Rules provide otherwise, the announcement of the approved date and place of a Championship automatically counts as an invitation to all NFs eligible to participate: Intentions to participate must be sent to the host NF as soon as possible.

18.5 All players taking part in OIEs, IEs, Series, FIHB Championship and Games must be given the same allowances and conditions. If similar accommodation facilities are not available for all players and their Horses, allocation shall be decided by a draw.

### ***Article 19: ENTRIES***

19.1 The number of Horses that may be entered for an Event must be in accordance with the schedule, the GRs and the Sport Rules of Horse-Ball.

19.2 All players invited or nominated for an International Event must be entered by their NFs. All foreign players selected by their NFs, in accordance with the Competition Rules of Horse-Ball and as specified in the schedule, must be accepted by the OC. OCs may not accept any other entries.

19.3 The number of teams and individual players allowed to be entered to take part is laid down in the Horse-Ball Competition Rules.

19.4 NFs may only enter players under conditions for FIHB World Championships who are qualified under conditions decided by the FIHB Competition Commission and approved by the Bureau.

19.5 Unless it is stated otherwise in the Competition Rules, entries for FIHB Championships must be made following the compulsory three phases outlined under paragraph 19.5.1, 19.5.2, 19.5.3 below.

19.5.1 Entries in principle must reach the OC at least 12 weeks before the Event is due to begin. Entry in principle means that an NF has the definite intention of sending players to participate in the Event.

19.5.2 Nominated entries must reach the OC at least 8 weeks before the Event and must include a list of names of players and Horses from which the Definite Entries and any substitutions will be chosen and state the number of players and Horses which the NF intends to send.

19.5.3 Definite entries must reach the OC at least 4 weeks before preceding the beginning of the Event. These represent the final selection of players and Horses that will travel to the Event. The Definite Entries may not exceed the number listed in the Nominated Entries. After the Definite Entries have been sent in, substitutions of Horses and/or players may only be made after advising by writing the OC.

19.6 Where an NF has made a nominated entry of a team and finds that it will be unable to send a team, it must immediately inform the OC.

19.7 Teams who have been definitely entered by their NFs at any Event and fail to take part without valid excuse must be reported by the Supervisor to the FIHB General Secretary for consideration by the FIHB Disciplinary Commission.



## ***Article 20: SELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS***

20.1 NFs have the final responsibility for the selection of all players and Horses to participate in any International Event or to represent their countries at OIEs, FIHB Championships provided that the players and Horses are qualified in all respects under the conditions laid down for each Event.

20.2 Only players properly licensed by NFs may be accepted as entries for all International Events.

20.3 Players whose NF has been suspended or expelled may not be accepted as entries for any International Event, or national Event outside their country, during the period of Suspension or expulsion.

20.4 No player may be accepted as an entry for any International Event under any other name than that appearing on his licence.

## ***Article 21: NATIONALITY STATUS OF PLAYERS***

21.1 The NF of a country where a player has his nationality/citizenship is his own NF.

21.2 Except as provided in paragraphs 21.7 and 21.11, a player may take part in International Events only under the jurisdiction of his own NF.

21.3 A player who is the national/citizen of more than one nation must decide from the age of 18 years which is his own NF and must thereafter, subject to paragraph 21.4, compete under the jurisdiction of that NF.

21.4 A player who is the national/citizen of more than one country must decide which is his own NF and may take part in competitions for that NF, provided he was citizen/national of that NF by 31<sup>st</sup> December of the preceding year.

21.5 Proof of legal citizenship or nationality is necessary to compete for the respective country. In addition, the following conditions apply prior to participation in FIHB Championships and FIHB World Cup:

21.5.1 The player must have had legal residence in his new country for (a) a minimum of two years uninterrupted residence in the new country immediately prior to the competition or (b) a total of five years of non-consecutive periods.

21.5.2 In the event of a first change of nationality, a player shall not have taken part in competitions of his previous NF in the two years period to the first competition he wishes to compete in under his new nationality/citizenship.

21.6 In special and exceptional circumstances, the FIHB may grant exceptions for justifiable cases, with the agreement of the NFs concerned.

21.7 If an associate state, province or overseas department, a country or a colony acquires independence, if a country becomes incorporated within another country by reason of a change of border, or if a new NF is recognised by the FIHB, a competitor may continue to represent the country to which he belongs or belonged if that country continues to have an NOC. However, he may, if he prefers, choose to represent his new NF. This particular choice must receive the Approval of the FIHB and may be made only once.

21.8 All changes of a player's NF must be reported by the new NF to the Secretary General of the FIHB.

21.9 Players living Abroad – A player is considered to be living abroad if he spends more than six months of a year in one foreign country (the host country).

21.10 Players Living Abroad can take part regularly in NEs and OIEs and IEs for Juniors, Young riders and Pony Riders of his host country if he is given permission from the NF of his host country or, in very exceptional circumstances, given special Approval by the FIHB. The player, while keeping his own NF, comes under the jurisdiction of the host NF for the above-mentioned Events and he must take part according to the relevant Sport Rules.



21.11 A player Living Abroad who loses his nationality or becomes a refugee or whose home country does not have an NF which is or ever has been member of the FEI can compete internationally as if he were a national of the host country in all International Events including Championships until his home country has an NF which is a member of the FEI.

## ***Article 22: HORSE-BALL YOUNG RIDERS, JUNIORS, PONY RIDERS, CHILDREN.***

22.1 Players may take part in FIHB Competitions and FIHB Championship for Young Riders from the beginning of the year they reach the age of 19 (they must have 18 years at 1<sup>st</sup> January) until the end of the year they reach the age of 21.

22.2 Players may take part in FIHB Competitions and FIHB Championships for Juniors from the year they reach the age of 17 (16 at 1<sup>st</sup> January) until the end of the year they reach the age of 18.

22.3 Players may take part in FIHB Competitions and FIHB Championships for Pony Riders (**under 16**) from the year they reach the age of 14 (13 at 1<sup>st</sup> January) until the end of the year they reach the age of 16.

22.4 Players may take part in FIHB International Events for children from the year they reach the age of 12 until the end of the year they reach the age of 14.

22.5 Players may take part in FIHB Senior competitions and Championships from the beginning of the year they reach the age of 17 (16 at 1<sup>st</sup> January) but they can take part either in a Young Riders or Junior FIHB Championship for Senior in any calendar year.

22.6 Players under 18 years old must have a parental terms of responsibility and their relative NF authorisation to play in a superior Category.

## ***Article 23: TEAM LEADER***

23.1 NF's must appoint a Team Leader for any IEs, OIEs or Championships

23.2 The Team Leader must attend all technical meetings organised for them in relation to the Event.

23.3 The Team Leader has responsibility for the following:

23.3.1 The general management and fitness of the Horses entered for the Event and the observance of the VRs by Team Veterinarians and other official team members.

23.3.2 The declaration of the players and Horses entered for the Competitions.

23.3.3 The general management, fitness and behaviour of their teams for the entire duration of the Event and are obliged to stay with their teams.

23.4 Team Leaders are not allowed to perform any other official functions at an Event.

23.5 A Team Leader or his NF may appoint a deputy to attend meetings or perform other functions.



## **CHAPTER IV - FIHB REGISTRATION AND SPONSORSHIP**

### ***Article 24: REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS***

All players must be registered with the FIHB, where stipulated by the Sport Rules, and with their own or their host NF before they can be permitted to take part in an International Event. (See Art 21 Nationality Status of Players). The registration with the FIHB is made by paying the player fee valid for the whole year of competition and defined in the Competition Rules (CR's).

### ***Article 25: SPONSORED TEAM***

25.1 In order to take part in FIHB Events Sponsored Teams must be registered with the FIHB in accordance with the GRs, ORs and CRs. The registration with the FIHB is made by paying the team fee valid for the competition.

### ***Article 26: ADVERTISING AND PUBLICITY ON PLAYERS AND HORSES***

26.1 At all Events players may wear the identification (name and/or logo) of the manufacturer of clothing and equipment or as an alternative that of a sponsor as outlined below:

26.1.1 Identification of the Manufacturer.

26.1.2 While present in the Competition area and during the prize-giving ceremonies the identification of the manufacturer of the clothing and equipment may appear.

26.2 The OC may display the name and/or logo of a Competition and/or Event Sponsor(s) on members of the arena party and on the numbers worn by players and on stable rugs while present in the Competition area and during the prize-giving ceremonies at all FIHB Events. The size of name and/or logo on the player's number shall not exceed 400cm<sup>2</sup>.

26.3 Advertising may appear on the sides of the arena provided the TV agreement allows for it. Specifications for sponsored on the arena are covered in the Sport Rules.

26.7 FIHB may ask the participants team to reserve a space on their clothes and equipment for sponsorship.



## **CHAPTER V - HORSES**

### ***Article 27: AGE OF HORSES***

27.1 Horses entered in FIHB IEs and OIEs must be at least 5 years of age.

### ***Article 28: HORSE PASSPORTS***

28.1 Every Horse entered for any FIHB competitions IEs and OIEs whether at home or in foreign countries, must have an official valid FEI passport or a National Passport approved by the FEI.

28.2 Such horse must be properly registered and identifiable and, unless there is National requirements for Equine influenza vaccination, in the host country and in the country of origin, all horses must have a valid vaccination certificate.

28.3 NFs are responsible for issuing passport for all horses required to have them and for ensuring that the passport are correctly completed, specified in the VRs, prior to being authenticated by the stamp of the NF and the signature of an official of a NF.

28.4 OCs must arrange for each horse to be positively identified at the passport control during the examination during on arrival that in accordance with the VRs. Any case of misleading or inaccurate information in a passport, or if the horse cannot be positively identified, must be reported to the President of the Ground Jury, who must report the case to the bureau.

28.5 If any horse arrives at a IE or a OIE without a passport, or if the passport is inaccurate, it must not be allowed to compete unless the Appeal committee (or the Ground Jury if there is no Appeal Committee) gives its approval.

### ***Article 29: PERSONS RESPONSIBLE***

29.1 The Person Responsible for a Horse has legal responsibility for that Horse, including responsibility under the GRs and the VRs and unless otherwise state is liable under the legal System (Chapter VIII).

29.2 It is the obligation of the Person Responsible and of every other person subject to the Statutes, GRs ad Sport Rules to know the Statutes, GRs and relevant Sport Rules, and lack of such knowledge does not relieve these persons from liabilities under the Statutes, GRs and Sport Rules.

29.3 The Person Responsible shall be the player who rides the Horse during an Event, but the Owner and other support personnel including but not limited to grooms and veterinarians may be regarded as additional Persons Responsible if they are present at the Event or have made a relevant Decision about the Horse.

29.4 Player under 18 years of age :

29.4.1 If the player is under 18 years of age when the entry is submitted, the NF of Team Leader must nominate a representative for the player.

29.4.2 The representative may be a parent of the player, the Team Leader, the Team Coach, the team veterinarian, the Owner or some other responsible adult and shall be communicated to the OC and the NF with the entry.

29.4.3 If the NF and Team Leader fail to nominate the Person Responsible, either parent of the player may be considered as the representative.

29.4.4 The minor player shall remain the Person responsible.

29.4.5 When the representative is from another NF than the Person Responsible's, all communications shall take place through the Person Responsible's NF.



29.5 NF's are responsible for selecting and entering qualified Horses. This includes the fitness and capability of the Horses to participate in the Competitions for which they are entered.

29.6 The Person Responsible, together with the Team Leader if present, is responsible for the condition, fitness and management and for declaring or scratching of each and every Horse under his jurisdiction.

29.7 The Person Responsible is responsible for any act performed in the stables to any Horse under his jurisdiction, by himself or by any other person with access to the Horse, and is responsible while riding or relieved from such responsible as a result of the lack or insufficiency of stable security.

29.8 If, for any reason, the Person responsible is unable or is prevented from caring for the Horses under his jurisdiction he must immediately notify the Secretary of the OC and the Veterinary Commission.



## **CHAPTER VI - PROTECTION OF PLAYERS AND HORSES**

### ***Article 30: ABUSE OF HORSES***

30.1 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:

30.1.1 To whip or beat a Horse excessively;

30.1.2 To subject a Horse to any kind of electric shock device;

30.1.3 To use spurs excessively or persistently;

30.1.4 to jab the Horse in the mouth with the bit or any other device;

30.1.5 To compete using an exhausted, lame or injured Horse;

30.1.6 To “rap” a Horse.

30.1.7 To abnormally sensitise or desensitise any part of a Horse;

30.1.8 To leave a Horse without adequate food, drink or exercise;

30.1.9 To use any device or equipment which cause excessive pain to the Horse.

30.2 Any person witnessing an Abuse must report it in the form of a protest (Art 40) without delay. If an Abuse is witnessed during or in direct connection with an Event, it should be reported as a protest (Art 40) to the Secretary General for referral to the FIHB Disciplinary Committee.

### ***Article 31: MEDICATION CONTROL ANTI-DOPING AND PROTECTION OF PLAYERS***

31.1 Subject to prior authorisation by the FIHB, the use of any Prohibited Substance by a player is forbidden.

31.2 Subject to prior authorisation by the FIHB, any player found to have a Prohibited Substance in his body at an Event or evidence of the Event and the classification adjusted accordingly. A disqualified player does not disqualify automatically the entire team.

31.3 The rules and list of Prohibited Substances existing from time to time and laid down in the World Anti-Doping Code and any all annexes and modifications thereto and in the Anti-Doping Rules for human Athletes apply, subject to modifications by any of the governing bodies of the FIHB as may be published from time to time.

31.4 The Ground Jury after consultation with the responsible Medical Officer may at any time exclude from further participation in a Competition or an entire Event any player who is unfit to continue by reason of a serious or potentially serious injury or health condition.

31.5 The Secretary General may order the sampling of International players during an Event or at any other time.

### ***Article 32: MEDICATION CONTROL AND PROTECTION OF HORSES***

32.1 The use of any substance or method that has the potential to harm the Horse or to enhance its performance is forbidden. The precise rules concerning Prohibited Substances and Medication Control are laid down in the EADMCRs.

32.2 The decision as to whether a Horse may compete in an Event when under treatment or medication with a Prohibited Substance is made by the President of the Ground Jury on the recommendation of the Veterinary Delegate or Commission according to the procedures set out in the VRs.



32.3 In cases of illness or injury during an Event the Ground Jury will decide, after consulting the Veterinary Delegate or Commission, whether the Horse may continue in that or subsequent Competitions.

32.4 The Secretary General may order the sampling of Horses during an Event or at any other time.



## CHAPTER VII EVENT OFFICIALS

### ***Article 33: SUPERVISOR***

33.1 The Supervisor is the President of Ground Jury appointed to control a Competition or Event.

33.2 The supervisor is named by the FIHB Bureau for each Competitions or Event.

33.3 The FIHB maintains a List of all qualified international Supervisors who have been recommended by their NFs and accepted by the FIHB Bureau in cooperation with the FIHB International Referee Committee (IRC).

33.3 The supervisor chooses the referees for the matches. It ensures that all competitions IEs an OIEs run smoothly and can determine dispute concerning interpretation of the rules.

33.4 The supervisor cannot interfere with the referring during the match. He can ask to the referee to stop a match at his convenience.

33.5 The Supervisor responsibility start 30 min before the first official Team Leader Meeting and finish 30 minutes after the reward Ceremony.

33.6 The supervisor also:

- presides over the veterinary inspection
- establish that the pitch is playable
- control all safety aspects for players and Horses as specified in the SRs
- control availability of Doctor, Ambulance and Veterinary during Competitions
- calls the appeal commission if appropriate
- receive complaints
- control the horse and players identifications, licences and any other official documents
- receives the licence player fees when required

### ***Article 34: REFEREES***

34.1 The referee is responsible for referring the matches as specified in the Sport Rules.

34.2 Referees are part of the Ground Jury to control a Competition or Event.

34.2 Referees are named by the FIHB IRC for each Competitions or Event.

34.3 The FIHB maintains a list of all qualified international referees who have been recommended by their NFs and accepted by the FIHB Bureau in cooperation with the International Referee Committee (IRC).

34.3 The referees are chosen by the Supervisor for the matches.

34.4 All referees should have a competition licence or other appropriate authority of their ONHB valid for the current year. All referees must be covered by insurance for civil responsibility when they are acting as referees.

### ***Article 35: GROUND JURY***

35.1 The Ground jury shall consist of a President (the Supervisor) and a minimum number of two referees named by the Supervisor for that competition.

35.2 The Ground Jury is responsible for the technical judging of all competitions and for all other decisions except where otherwise stated in the statutes GRs or Sport Rules.

35.3 A ground Jury may not carry out any functions at the same Event that are primarily of a national character.



35.4 The Ground Jury shall be competent to deal with all Protests and Reports which relate to anything occurring during or in direct connections with an Event and are presented within the period of its jurisdiction.

35.5 The period of jurisdiction of the Ground Jury commence one hour before the first Team Leaders Meeting and terminates one hour after the Reward Ceremony.

35.6 In appropriate cases involving veterinary matters and in the absence of an Appeal Committee, the President of the Veterinary Commission or the Veterinary Delegate at an Event must be invited to join the Ground Jury in an advisory capacity.

35.7 The Ground Jury may impose the following penalties on Officials (other than those appointed by the FIHB), Person Responsible, players and teams officials:

35.7.1 A warning

35.7.2 A fine of a maximum of € 1,000 – to be paid to the FIHB;

35.7.3 Disqualification from the Competition

35.7.4 In serious cases, immediate disqualification during the Event with a referral to the Appeal Committee (or to the FIHB disciplinary Committee if there is no Appeal Committee).

35.8 Decisions must be notified in writing to the parties concerned.

35.9 There is no Appeal against Decisions of the Ground Jury in the following cases:

35.9.1 Where the question for Decision is a factual observation of performance during a Competition or the award of marks for performance; examples (which are not exhaustive): a penalty during the game or any kind of decision that might take the referee during the game.

35.9.2 The elimination of a Horse for veterinary reasons, including non-acceptance of a Horse at a Horse Inspection;

35.9.3 the imposition of a Warning without additional penalties;

35.9.4 immediate disqualification during the Event.

35.10 the Ground Jury shall refer the following to the Appeal Committee:

35.10.1 any case which is beyond its competence;

35.10.2 any case within its competence which it considers deserving of more severe penalties than the Ground Jury may impose;

35.10.3 any matter concerning alleged acts of abuse of Horse the Decision of which is not immediately required for the purpose of judging a Competition and which, having regard to its primary duty to judge the Competition, it deems more appropriate to be dealt with by the Appeal committee.

### ***Article 36: APPEAL COMMITTEE***

36.1 An appeal committee consisting of a President and at least two members shall be appointed for all the competition and is mandatory for IEs and OIEs.

36.2 The Appeal Committee must be international for International Events.

36.3 The members of the Appeal Committee must have expertise in Horse-Ball Events. At least one of them must be or have been an international referee and one should have knowledge in legal matters.

36.4 During the event of any official appointed by the FIHB Bureau been unable to attend the Bureau in co-operation with the Ground Jury is responsible for selecting a substitute.

36.5 The President and at least two members of the Appeal Committee must be available throughout the Event as defined in Art 3.5 which corresponds to its period of jurisdiction. If a protest lodged with the Ground Jury is still pending, the Appeal Committee must be available and has jurisdiction until one hour after the relevant Decision of the Ground Jury has been announced.

36.6 The Appeal Committee shall deal with the following matters:

36.6.1 Appeals against Decisions of the Ground Jury, except as defined in Art 35.9.x. In these cases the Decision of the Appeal Committee is final;



36.6.2 Protests addressed to the Appeal Committee or referred to it by the Ground Jury, and all cases which are beyond the competences of the Ground Jury.

36.6.3 Reports of passport irregularities in accordance with Art. 28.4

36.7 In appropriate cases involving veterinary matters the President of the Veterinary Commission or the Veterinary Delegate at an Event must be invited to join the Appeal Committee in an advisory capacity.

36.8 The Appeal Committee may impose the following penalties on Officials, Persons Responsible, players and team official:

36.8.1 A warning;

36.8.2 A fine of a maximum of € 2,500.- to be paid to the FIHB;

36.8.3 Disqualification from a Competition or from the whole Event;

36.8.4 In Serious cases, immediate disqualification from a Competition or from the whole Event with a referral to the Secretary General (for referral to the FIHB Disciplinary Commission).

36.9 The Appeal Committee shall report to the Secretary General for referral to the FIHB Disciplinary Commission:

36.9.1 Any case which is beyond its competence.

36.9.2 Any case within its competence, other than an Appeal, which it considers deserving of more severe penalties than the Appeal Committee may impose;

### ***Article 37: EXPENSES OF OFFICIALS***

37.1 Unless otherwise agreed by the Bureau, the NFs and OCs shall meet the travelling, accommodation and meals Expenses of all Officials according to the FIHB Statutes, GRs, and ORs.

37.2 FIHB appointed Officials whose Expenses are to be paid by the OC shall be appointed with the agreement of the OC.



## **CHAPTER VIII – THE LEGAL SYSTEM**

### ***Article 38: LEGAL DEPARTMENT***

38.1 The legal Structure is established by the Statutes.

38.2 The legal system is established by the GRs and provide for the following:

38.2.1 The legal powers and responsibilities of Officials and bodies appointed under the Statutes, GRs and Sport Rules;

38.2.2 A scale of penalties;

38.2.3 A procedure for lodging protests and reports against the actions or behaviour of individuals or bodies under the jurisdiction of the FIHB;

38.2.4 A process of Appeal to a higher body acting under the Statutes, GRs or Sport Rules.

38.3 Before reaching a Decision on any protest or Appeal the relevant body must examine the available evidence, whether written or oral, hear all the parties concerned (provided they are available) and take into account all relevant material, in every case trying to reach a fair and equitable Decision.

### ***Article 39: PROTESTS***

39.1 Protests may be lodged against any person or body involved in any capacity in an International event or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the FEI including for failure to observe the Statutes, GRs or Sport Rules or violation of the common principles of behaviour, fairness, or accepted standards of sportsmanship, whether occurring during or in connection with an International Event or at any other time.

39.2 Protest may only be lodged by President of NFs, Officials, Team Leader or, if a Team Leader is not present, by a Person Responsible or a Team Veterinarian responsible for Horses taking part in the Event, with the exception of protests for abuse which may be lodged by any person or body.

39.3 Protests must be lodged with the Ground Jury during its period of jurisdiction for failing to observe the Statutes, GRs or Sport Rules in the organisation or conduct of a competition, including the matters referred to in paragraph 39.6 below. Protests for other matters must be lodged with the Appeal Committee during its period of jurisdiction or with the Ground Jury if there is no Appeal Committee.

39.4 Protest regarding matters which have not occurred during or in direct connection with an International Event or which were not known until after the end of the Event, shall be reported to the Secretary General. A case shall only be deemed to occur in direct connection with an Event if it occurs during the journey towards the Event or, after arrival, including during the period of quarantine, training or acclimatisation.

39.5 Protests must be in writing, in English, signed by the authorised person making the protest, and presented personally to the President of the Ground Jury, to the President of the Appeal Committee or sent to the Secretary General, as the case may be, together with any supporting evidence, names of witnesses and the necessary deposit.

39.6 Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, protests against any of the following matters may only be lodged with the Ground Jury and within the following time limits, and a Decision by the Ground Jury in these matters is a prerequisite to a right of Appeal to the Appeal Committee:

39.6.1 Protests concerning the eligibility of a player or Horse or to the conditions of the arena: not later than 30 minutes before the start of the relevant Competition;



39.6.2 Protests concerning irregularities or incidents during a Competition, or the results of a competition: not later than 30 minutes after the announcement of the results.

39.7 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, the Secretary General may, in special circumstances, which – in sole discretion – warrant a decision, refer to the FIHB Disciplinary Commission a protest against any person or body made by any person or body or on his own initiative, at any time, in regard to any matter and even without the payment of a deposit.

39.8 Any person making a protest should, if possible, secure witnesses to the incident and any other form of evidence, and either bring them to the body before whom the protest is lodged, or obtain written statements from them, duly signed, together with their names and addresses.

39.9 The Foreign Judge, Technical Delegate, Veterinary Delegate and Foreign Veterinary Delegate must report to the Secretary General all acts or omissions constituting a protest (without a deposit).

### ***Article 40: REPORTS***

40.1 Officials are required to send reports to the Secretary General at the conclusion of Events, in accordance with these GRs and the applicable Sport Rules. Matters giving rise to Protests must be included with such reports.

### ***Article 41: APPEALS***

41.1 An Appeal may be lodged by any person or body with a legitimate interest against any Decision made by any person or body authorised under the Statutes, GRs or Sport Rules, provided it is admissible (See paragraph 2 below):

41.1.1 With Appeal Committee against Decisions by the Ground Jury.

41.1.2 With the FIHB Disciplinary Commission through the Secretary General against Decisions by the Appeal Committee;

41.2 An Appeal is NOT admissible:

41.2.1 Against Decisions by the Ground Jury in cases covered by Art 35.9.x

41.2.2 Against Decisions by the Appeal Committee of Appeals from the Decisions by the Ground Jury.

41.2.3 if there is no appeal committee, against Decisions by the FIHB Disciplinary Commission of Appeals from Decisions by the Ground Jury.

41.3 Appeals to the Appeal Committee must be in writing, in English, signed and accompanied by supporting evidence in writing or the presence of one or more witnesses and must be lodged not later than 1 hour after the Decision of the Ground Jury.

41.4 If there is no Appeal Committee, Appeals to the FIHB Disciplinary Commission must be in writing, signed and accompanied by supporting evidence in writing to the presence of one or more witnesses and must reach the Secretary General not later than 14 days after the end of the Event. So far as Competitions are concerned, the right of Appeal is limited to questions of eligibility of a player or Horse and questions involving the interpretation of the Sport Rules.

41.5 Appeals to the Disciplinary Commission must be despatched to the Secretary General and signed by the appellant or his authorised agent and accompanied by supporting evidence in writing or the presence of one or more witnesses at a designated hearing and must reach the Secretary General within 30 days of the date on which the Secretary General's notification of the earlier Decision was sent.

41.6 No new evidence may be presented on Appeal, other than in circumstances where it is shown that such new evidence could not have been obtained, with reasonable diligence, prior to the hearing before the first instance.



## ***Article 42: DEPOSITS***

42.1 Protest and Appeals to the Ground Jury or the Appeal Committee must be accompanied by a deposit to the FIHB of the equivalent of EUR 100.-.

42.2 Protests and Appeals to the FIHB Disciplinary Commission must be accompanied by a deposit to FIHB of the equivalent of EUR 500.-.

42.3 no deposit is required for protests concerning an Abuse on Horses.

## ***Article 43: RECORDING PROTEST, APPEALS AND PENALTIES***

43.1 The Supervisor must include in his report to the Secretary General all reports and protests received by the Ground Jury and all Decisions and penalties awarded by the Ground Jury on these and other relevant matters.

43.2 The President of the Appeal Committee must report to the Secretary General all protests, reports and Appeals, received by the Appeal Committee and all Decisions and penalties awarded by the Appeal Committee on these and other relevant matters.

43.3 The Secretary General shall be responsible for:

43.3.1 Recording delivery of yellow and red cards;

43.3.2 Recording proceedings of the FIHB Disciplinary Commission;

43.3.3 notifying the Decisions of these bodies, including the dates on which they become effective, to the parties concerned;

43.4 Publication of all Decisions which he believes warrant publication or which have to be published.

43.5 Processing reports from Event Officials.

## ***Article 44: TIME OF IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS***

44.1 Decisions against which there can be no Appeal shall become effective immediately and must be notified as soon as possible to the persons or bodies concerned.

44.2 Decisions to which the parties concerned have formally renounced their right of Appeal shall become effective on the date when the renunciation reaches the FIHB, provided such renunciation is made following the notification of the Decision.

44.3 Decisions taken by Ground jury and Appeal Committee, which are subject to Appeal, shall be effective from the expiration of the time for lodging an Appeal or the earlier formal renunciation of the right of Appeal.

44.4 Decisions taken on the second or final instance by Appeal Committee shall be effective from the date of notification to the persons or bodies concerned.

## ***Article 45: PENALTIES***

45.1 in deciding on the appropriate penalties to be imposed, the following factors shall be taken into consideration, together with any other relevant factors:

45.1.1 Whether the action or omission resulted in an unfair advantage to the offender or a player;

45.1.2 Whether the action or omission resulted in a material disadvantage to any other person or body involved;

45.1.3 Whether the action or omission involved the maltreatment of Horses;

45.1.4 Whether the action or omission affected the dignity or integrity of any person involved in the sport;

45.1.5 Whether the action or omission involved fraud, violence or abuse or similar criminal acts.



45.1.6 Whether the action or omission was deemed to be deliberate.

45.2 An oral or written warning is appropriate particularly in cases of minor violations or contraventions committed unintentionally and without significant consequences.

45.3 A fine is appropriate particularly in cases where the offender has acted negligently.

45.4 Disqualification is appropriate when it is specified in the Statutes, GRs or Sport Rules, or if the circumstances require an immediate action.

45.4.1 Disqualification from a Competition means that the player and Horse or Horses concerned – even should they change ownership – are removed from the match list and the classification.

45.4.2 Disqualification from an Event means that the player and Horse or Horses concerned – even should they change ownership – may take no further part in that Event and may include (in addition to what is mandated under paragraph 4.1) where this is provided for in the Statutes, GRs or Sport Rules.

45.5 A suspension, on such terms and subject to conditions as the Disciplinary Commission may impose, is appropriate in cases of intentional or very negligent violations or contravention. In certain cases Suspension may be automatic under the Statutes, GRs or Sport Rules.

45.5.1 Suspension must be for a stated period and during that period the person, Horse or body suspended may take no part in Competitions or Events as a player, Horse or Official or in the organisation of, or participation in, any Event under the jurisdiction of the FIHB or any Event under the jurisdiction of an NF in accordance with Statutes Art. 37.

45.5.2 in deciding when any Suspension will commence, the appropriate body shall, in order to achieve a just penalty, have regard to the gravity of the offence.

45.6.1 notwithstanding anything to the contrary in paragraph 45.3 to 45.5 above, the penalties provided for the EADMCRs will be applicable in cases falling under EADMCR provisions.

45.6.2 Abuse of Horses in any form (rapping, abnormal sensitisation or desensitisation of limbs, banned schooling methods etc...) shall entail a fine of up to €10,000.- and or a Suspension of a minimum of 3 months up to life;

45.6.3 Incorrect behaviour towards Event Official or any other party connected with the Event (other rider, journalist, public etc.) shall entail a fine of €100.- to €5,000.- and/or a suspension of a minimum of 3 months up to 12 months;

45.6.4 Fraud of any kind, violence and other acts defined as criminal by the national law prevailing at the Event shall entail a fine of €500.- to €10,000.- and/or a Suspension of a minimum of one month up to life.

45.7 In cases of offences mentioned in paragraphs 45.6.2 and 45.6.3 above and which are of a less serious nature, the President of Ground Jury, the President of the Appeal Committee, instead of Person responsible a yellow warning card, either by hand or by any other suitable means. The acceptance of a warning card suspends any penalty until new offences take place.

45.8 The Person Responsible may or may not accept the warning card. If the PR does not accept a card which was delivered or presented during or after the Event, the Event officials may take any action within their capacities deemed necessary and shall report the case to the Secretary General for any further action deemed necessary. Should the same Person Responsible receive one more warning card at the same or any other International Event within one year of the delivery of the first card, the case shall be submitted to the FIHB Disciplinary Committee.

45.9 Where a warning card has been accepted, the offence for which it was delivered shall be taken into consideration when deciding the penalty to be imposed for a similar offence committed within the next twenty-four months.

45.10 The penalty imposed in any given case can consist of a combination of fine, Suspension and disqualification. The amount of a fine and the duration of a suspension shall be decided according to the guidelines mentioned in paragraph 6 above and to the circumstances of the case.

45.11 All fines imposed by anybody under the legal system are due to the FIHB. They must not be paid to the OC or any other body but must be paid to the FIHB on receipt of a demand. Any person who has not paid a fine within 30 days of receiving a demand for payment will be automatically



suspended until the fine is paid. If fines are inadvertently paid to the OC or any other person such fines shall be remitted to the FIHB.

45.12 Decisions of the FIHB Disciplinary Committee may also impose on unsuccessful parties the payment of costs borne by the FIHB for the judicial procedure in the amount of €100.- to €5,000.-, in addition, a party may be ordered to pay further costs not exceeding €5,000.- if the costs of the procedures borne by the FIHB have been increased by conducting a hearing or by excessive prolongation of the procedures or other exceptional cause. In the interests of fairness, the costs to the FIHB of any hearing which is held in conjunction with other hearings or with an administrative meeting of the FIHB Disciplinary Committee shall be separately calculated.