

Dear National Federations,

Please find below a summary of all comments received from the National Federations (in green colour) on the proposed changes to the FEI General Regulations that were sent to you on 6 July 2017.

The proposed final text of the relevant Articles is also set out below (in red colour).

The proposed wording set out below has been discussed and approved by the FEI Bureau. The FEI Bureau's recommendations can be seen in purple colour.

Yours sincerely,



Mikael Rentsch
FEI Legal Director

FEI General Regulations:

1. Article 119 – Sport Nationality

We recommend to remove the 31st December deadline in paragraph 2.2.1 below as there are additional requirements anyway for participation in FEI Championships and team competitions at CIOs. For any other events it is not useful to have such 31st December deadline as most applications for a change of nationality occurs in the course of the year.

In addition, we recommend to remove the FEI World Cups series from the list of Events in paragraph 2.2.2 as they have their own specific rules which require (or not) that the athlete finishes a season in the same league he started it. The waiting period requirement therefore serves no purpose in FEI World Cup series.

Proposed wording:

2.2: Sport Nationality changes:

2.2.1 Basic requirement: an Adult Athlete who is or who becomes the national of more than one (1) country and wishes to compete for his new/other country of nationality may apply for a sport nationality change to the FEI in the manner indicated in paragraph 2.2.5 below. ~~In the case of a new nationality, this nationality must have been acquired by 31st December of the preceding year.~~

2.2.2 The following ~~a~~Additional requirements apply prior to participation in FEI Championships (except FEI Championships for Young Horses), ~~FEI World Cup™ Series~~, and team competitions at CIOs:

- (i) Subject to the exceptions set forth in paragraph 2.2.3 below, the Athlete must have had legal residence in his new country prior to the first competition he wishes to compete in under his new sport nationality, for either: (a) a minimum of two (2) uninterrupted years; or (b) a total of five (5) years of non-consecutive periods.*
- (ii) The Athlete shall not have taken part in any of the competitions set forth in Article 2.2.2. above for his previous NF in the two (2) years prior to the first competition he wishes to compete in under his new sport nationality.*

(...)

2.2.5 An application for an Athlete's change of sport nationality must be filed with the FEI Secretary General, through his new NF, stating the reason for the change and supported by the Athlete's passport or equivalent document for the new country that he wishes to represent. The FEI must inform the current NF that a request for change of sport nationality has been filed.

URU NF Comments:

The URU NF hereby submits to your consideration a proposal to modify the Art. 119.6.2 of the FEI General Rules in those cases in which the country's national laws do not authorize minors to be nationalized until they reach the age of 18.

This change is proposed in order so that minors who have never competed under their country of birth flag and that have lived for a long time in the country under which flag they have want to compete become eligible to do so, because presently they cannot do it according to the provisions under the above mentioned Article.

FEI Bureau Recommendations:

As the above had not been included in the First Draft sent to National Federations on 6 July 2017, the FEI Bureau recommends to review the URU NF comment next year so that each National Federation can provide its input/feedback prior to taking any decision.

As there were no other comment from NFs on the other proposed changes to art. 119, they will be submitted to the FEI General Assembly for approval.

2. Art. 142 – Abuse of Horse

It is proposed to add that the FEI Secretary General shall decide whether a Protest for an abuse of horse should be referred to the FEI Tribunal or not depending on the circumstances and evidence. The FEI is receiving many Protests without grounds or evidence and the FEI should have the possibility not to refer such Protests to the FEI Tribunal.

Proposed wording:

*Any person witnessing an Abuse must report it in the form of a Protest (Article 163) without delay. If an Abuse is witnessed during or in direct connection with an Event, it should be reported as a Protest (Article 163) to an Official. If the Abuse is witnessed at any other time it should be reported as a Protest (Article 163) to the Secretary General **who, following a review of the Protest, shall take a Decision as to whether or not to refer the matter to ~~for referral to~~ the FEI Tribunal.***

NED NF Comments:

We believe that, despite of the discipline specific differences the 'blood rule' and other welfare issues should be equal for all disciplines and therefore needs to be placed in the General Regulations. Practical issues can be placed discipline specific.

To ensure that stewards and judges are able to make comprehensible and consistent decisions we recommend to involve a FEI veterinarian in the procedure when checking the horses.

The criteria for a 'minor' case of blood on the flank(s) and 'excessive' use of spurs/ whip should be mentioned clear, transparent and objective.

FEI Bureau Recommendations:

The FEI Bureau is of the opinion that each Discipline should have its specific provision(s) regarding blood. However, all Disciplines will now be harmonized as to the consequences; Elimination will be applied across all Disciplines.

3. Art. 163 Protest

It is proposed to clarify that the FEI does not need to lodge a Protest but will instead open a disciplinary case against the person. This proposed change would more accurately reflect what occurs/should occur in practice where these cases arise.

Proposed wording:

Protests and Disciplinary Cases

163.9 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, ~~Protests may be lodged by~~ the FEI, at its sole discretion, ~~may open a disciplinary case against a person(s)~~ in the event that conduct brings equestrian sport, and the FEI in particular, into disrepute and/or in the case of match fixing, betting, bribery and/or corruption without the payment of a deposit ~~and/or in the case of an Abuse of a Horse and/or in the case of any other breach of the FEI Rules and Regulations.~~

GER NF Comments:

We propose to add "abuse" to the listing of cases that can incite the FEI to open a disciplinary case.

FEI Bureau Recommendations:

The FEI Bureau agrees and therefore the wording above has been adjusted accordingly.

4. Art. 169 – Penalties

We recommend to amend paragraph 5.1 below and in particular to remove the reference that a Provisional Suspension must be for a stated period as in most of the cases a Provisional Suspension will be for an indefinite period of time. In addition, we will add the term "Suspension" in the definitions section as it is currently only mentioned in article 169.

Proposed wording:

5.1. During the period of a Provisional or Final 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 an Athlete, Horse or Official or in the organisation of, any Event

under the jurisdiction of the FEI or any Event under the jurisdiction of an NF in accordance with Statutes Article 41, or be present at an Event (other than as a spectator) that is under the jurisdiction of the FEI or any National Federation.

Suspension: *has the meaning set out in articles 169.5 – 169.5.2 of the GRs.*

We recommend to amend paragraph 6.4 as follows as a fraud or a criminal act does not necessarily occur during an FEI Event:

Proposed wording:

6.4. ~~Fraud of any kind, violence and other~~ Acts defined as criminal by the relevant national law ~~prevailing at the Event~~, fraud of any kind, and violence shall entail a fine of CHF 1,000.- to 15,000.- and/or a Suspension of a minimum of one (1) month up to life.

And to amend paragraph 7 as follows as the Ground Jury may impose other sanctions (such as a fine) in addition to a Yellow Warning Card:

7. In cases of offences mentioned in paragraphs 6.2 and 6.3 above and which are of a less serious nature and/or in cases specified in the Sport Rules and/or as mentioned in Article 140:

7.1 The President of the Ground Jury, the President of the Appeal Committee, the Chief Steward or the Technical Delegate must notify the Person Responsible during the Period of the Event that he will receive a Yellow Warning Card, which will be delivered either by hand or by any other suitable means. If after reasonable efforts the Athlete cannot be notified during the Period of the Event that he has received a Yellow Warning Card, the Athlete must be notified in writing within fourteen (14) days of the Event. ~~A Yellow Warning Card may be issued in addition to any other sanction(s) that may be issued in accordance with these GRs and/or the relevant Sport Rules.~~

No Comment received from NFs.

5. Qualified Horses and Athletes – Fitness to compete

We suggest to move the paragraph in article 116.2.2 ("*NFs are responsible for selecting and entering qualified Horses and Athletes. This includes the fitness and capability of the Horses and the Athletes to participate in the Competitions for which they are entered*") to art. 117 (Selection of Representative Teams and Individuals) as art. 116.2 only applies for FEI

Championships and FEI World Equestrian Games, but the NF's responsibility shall apply for all International Events.

NED NF Comments:

As an NF we will always try to enter athletes and horses which are fit and capable to compete at an event, but we believe that it is totally unrealistic to make NFs responsible for the fitness of horses at all events. Horses which are qualified for FEI championships and FEI World Equestrian Games will be examined by our Team veterinarian, but it is not realistic to expect NF's to do this for all horses competing at International Events.

GER NF Comments:

In theory it is correct to do so. What are the practical implications? The NF cannot check the health status for every event; for CHI this is impossible.

USA NF Comments:

In reality can NFs be held to account over this in the modern age? Ultimately the responsibility for the fitness of the horse at non Championships / Games should lie with the athlete.

FEI Bureau Recommendations:

The FEI Bureau wants to clarify that the above-mentioned provision was not a new wording, but it was only suggested to move it to another article. This provision has been there for a very long time without any problem in practice. It is not unreasonable to ask NFs to be responsible for only entering qualified/fit to compete Athletes and Horses. For example, if an Athlete had a concussion and his NF is aware of it, the FEI would clearly expect the NF not to enter such Athlete.

6. Chapter VII – Event Officials

Given the current and ongoing work of the Working Group on FEI Officials chaired by Mark Samuel (CAN), it is proposed that the Working Group reviews Chapter VII (Event Officials) so that all proposed modifications in Chapter VII are made at once (such as Age limit, appointment/removal of Officials, etc). Therefore, any such changes will be addressed with the Bureau at a later stage and will be submitted for approval at the 2018 FEI General Assembly (and not this year).

The only proposed change this year regarding the FEI Officials is to include the FEI Officials' Code of Conduct as a new annex to the FEI General

Regulations. The introduction of the FEI Officials' Code of Conduct requires some changes to art. 156 and 158. Please see hereinafter the proposed text.

Proposed wording:

Article 156 - Status and Liability of Officials

(...)

10. Officials are bound by all FEI Rules and Regulations while officiating and/or representing the FEI, and in particular by the FEI Officials' Code of Conduct, the FEI Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy and the FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse.

Article 158 - Conflict Of Interest and FEI Officials' Code of Conduct

158. A substantial appearance of a conflict of interest exists whenever an individual involved in any capacity with the FEI is involved in or perceived to be involved in multiple interests, one of which could possibly influence, or is perceived to influence the motivation for an act in the other. A conflict of interest is defined as any personal, professional or financial relationship, including relationships of family members that could influence or be perceived to influence objectivity when representing or conducting business or other dealings for or on behalf of the FEI. Conflicts must be avoided whenever practicable. However, conflicts may be linked to experience and expertise that is necessary to qualify Officials. The specific balance between conflict and expertise shall be regulated by the relevant Sport Rules. All FEI Officials are also bound by and subject to the provisions of the FEI Officials' Code of Conduct, attached to these General Regulations as Appendix H.

Appendix H - FEI Officials' Code of Conduct

As an FEI Official I undertake to respect all FEI Rules and Regulations at all times, and in particular the FEI Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy and the FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse.

I am aware that I am a representative of the FEI while officiating at any FEI Event (hereinafter the "Event/s"). I am also conscious of my role as an authority and of the associated obligation to have adequate knowledge of the principles of equestrian sport and the relevant FEI Rules and Regulations, and to apply them at all times in a fair and consistent way.

I will fulfill all FEI requirements (including maintaining the necessary qualification) relevant to each Event to which I am appointed.

While I am officiating:

- *I will act in an appropriate and respectful manner towards humans and animals, paying constant attention to their safety and I will carry out all duties in a professional manner.*
- *I will refrain from consuming alcohol and I will not use any substances and/or medications that would impair my judgement.*
- *I will not compete at the Event.*
- *I will be willing to answer the questions of stakeholders (including but not limited to Athletes, Owners and Trainers, Organisers, Grooms and my colleagues). I will take the time to politely and objectively explain my decisions where possible.*
- *I will be familiar with all the relevant FEI Rules and Regulations and will be well prepared for every Event.*
- *I will cooperate with the Organiser of the Event and with my colleagues.*
- *I will be punctual and dress appropriately.*

I commit to avoid any actual or perceived conflict of interest. A conflict of interest is defined as any personal, professional or financial relationship, including relationships of family members that could influence or be perceived to influence objectivity when representing or conducting business or other dealings for or on behalf of the FEI.

I will maintain a neutral, independent and fair position towards Athletes, Owners, Trainers, Grooms, Organisers, other Officials and stakeholders. Financial and/or personal interests will never influence my officiating duties and I will spare no effort to avoid any such perception.

I will not engage in nationalistic judging.

Activities that lead or may lead to a conflict of interest when officiating at an FEI Event include but are not limited to:

- *Acting as a Chef d'Equipe or being responsible /co-responsible for selecting teams and/or individuals or training Athletes within a NF present at the Event, if the teams and/or individuals participate in a competition falling within the level and age group of the authority of the Official.*
- *Being the Owner/part-Owner of a Horse taking part in a competition that I am officiating at.*
- *Being in a situation of financial dependence or gaining financial profit from participating Owners, Athletes, Trainers or Organisers (excluding any payment(s) permitted under the FEI Rules and*

Regulations, such as per diems). The same rule applies with regard to National Federations or other organisations involved in the Event, if the dependence exceeds a regular employment. Employees of participating National Federations cannot act as President of the Ground Jury, President of the Appeal Committee, Chief Steward, Veterinary Delegates, or Course Designer at Official International Events, International Championships and Games.

- *Having a close personal relationship with an Athlete competing in a competition that I am officiating at.*
- *Having recently treated a Horse competing in a Competition that I am officiating at.*

On becoming aware of a potential Conflict of Interest I undertake to promptly notify the FEI HQ (or where the conflict only arises and/or is identified on-site, the President of the Ground Jury) of any of the above or other possible conflicts of interest or circumstances that may be perceived as such.

Conflicts must be avoided whenever practicable. However, conflicts may be linked to experience and expertise that is necessary to qualify Officials. The specific balance between conflict and expertise is regulated by the General Regulations and the relevant Sport Rules.

In the course of my duties or when representing the FEI I will refrain from making any public statements, including to the media or in social media, that might cause harm to the FEI or to equestrian sport in general. This includes statements that might create a perception of bias.

I will not place bets on Athletes and Horses competing at FEI Events or otherwise receive any financial or other gain as a product of a particular result.

The breach of any obligation assumed under this Code of Conduct and/or any breach of the FEI Rules and Regulations may lead to any of the following sanctions as stipulated in the FEI Rules:

- *Warning letter*
- *Obligation to attend an FEI course and/or to pass an exam*
- *Fine*
- *Suspension from officiating duties (provisional or for a stated period of time)*
- *Removal from the relevant and appropriate FEI lists of Officials*
- *Any other sanctions as stated in the relevant FEI Rules or Regulations.*

No Comment received from NFs.

FEI Bureau Recommendations:

While there was no comment received from NFs, the FEI Veterinary Committee asked for the word “recently” to be added in the sentence “Having **recently** treated a Horse competing in a Competition that I am officiating at” included in the list of activities that lead or may lead to a conflict of interest when officiating at an FEI Event.

7. Article 137 -Horse Passports and Microchips

In order to be in line with the process put in place by the FEI HQ to validate the scans of Horse documents and to avoid potential issues, it is suggested to make some minor amendments as per the below. This will for example clarify that the documents are due at the Definite entry stage.

Proposed wording:

*1. Every Horse entered for any Competition at CIMs (see Appendix E) in a country other than the country of the Horse’s residency, and all Horses entered for other CIs, FEI Championships, Regional, Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, at all times, must have an official, valid FEI passport, or a national passport approved by the FEI and inserted inside an FEI Recognition Card. In the case of Horses permanently resident in a Member State of the European Union, all Horses must have an acceptable national EU approved passport in compliance with Commission Regulations, to which an FEI recognition **card** is applied. The exception to the latter being the possession of an FEI passport which has been continually revalidated without any interruption.*

*2. Notwithstanding the paragraph above, Horses taking part in CIMs (see Appendix E) and in CSI-P in their country of residence are not required to have a FEI Passport or FEI Recognition Card as mentioned in paragraph 1. All such Horses must be properly registered with the FEI and identifiable. **All Horses permanently resident within a Member State of the European Union must have as a minimum a suitable national EU approved passport in compliance with Commission Regulation.***

*As of 1 January 2017 the following requirements apply to Horses that are registered with the FEI for the first time: (i) to be identifiable at least by a National Passport approved by the FEI **or a FEI Passport**; and (ii) scans of the ~~description page and diagram required pages~~ of the National Passports approved by the FEI **and/or FEI Documents** must be uploaded by the NFs to the FEI Database prior to the Horse ~~competing~~ **being definitely entered in the Event. All Horses permanently resident within a Member State of the European Union must have as a minimum a suitable national EU approved passport in compliance with Commission Regulation.***

NED NF Comments:

We will agree with the proposal only if the FEI acts upon our conversation about the 'slot' horses which we can use for entering in the FEI entry system instead.

FEI Bureau Recommendations:

The FEI Bureau recommends to keep the initial proposed changes as suggested as the requirements must be met when the horse is definitely entered in the Event.

8. FEI Code of Ethics

The FEI Code of Ethics is based on the IOC Code of Ethics in force as of 2012. However, the IOC Code of Ethics has been reviewed and a new version was approved in 2016. The FEI shall therefore update its Code of Ethics and the FEI HQ will liaise with the IOC in order to ensure its compliance.

No Comment received from NFs.

FEI Bureau Recommendations:

Given that the FEI already has the FEI Code of Ethics, the IOC confirmed that it would be sufficient to "only" mention that all participants in Equestrian Sport (as described below) undertake to respect and be bound by the IOC Code of Ethics so that the IOC will have jurisdiction when needed.

Proposed wording:

Appendix F - FEI CODE OF ETHICS

(...)

Consequently, all participants in Equestrian Sport, including but not limited to Athletes (and their Support Personnel), Owners, Organisers, Officials, sponsors, and FEI volunteers and staff undertake to respect and be bound at all times by the present Code, and by the IOC Code of Ethics where applicable.

9. Advertising on Athletes and Horses and Promotion

Further to the Sports Forum Session 4 on the Jumping Dress Code, the conclusion was that the current dress code had a classic look which identified the sport and it was functional. In addition, the athletes were very

proud to wear their uniforms. For this reason, there seemed to be consensus at the Sports Forum that there was no need to stray too far from the current dress code. However, it was agreed that athletes and nations should be clearly identifiable and more space could be allowed for commercial branding, while maintaining the integrity of the dress code.

Therefore, the FEI Sport Departments were tasked to liaise with their Technical Committee so that they would discuss the matter. If there are any proposal(s) that will lead to amendments to the General Regulations, such changes will be included in the Final Draft to be sent in October.

FEI Bureau Recommendations:

Further to the Jumping Committee's proposed changes to the Jumping Rules that riders at CSIOs only need to wear the NF official jacket in the Nations Cup competition, but not in individual competitions, it is suggested to amend art. 135.2.2.1.1 as follows:

Proposed wording:

"Unless stated otherwise in the Sport Rules, Athletes shall wear the official clothing of their NF throughout all stages of competition (team and individual) during the FEI Championships and/or CIOs.

In addition, further to the proposed changes in the various Sport Rules (such as the Jumping Rules and Eventing Rules) regarding the National identification, it is proposed to add the below wording to art. 135.2.3 to allow flexibility to each Discipline to amend their rules when and where needed.

Proposed wording:

Art. 135.2.3. Athlete's National identification

2.3.1. While present in the Competition area and during the prize-giving ceremonies the name or logo of the Athlete's nation, its national symbol and/or its national flag, and/or the Athlete's NF logo or name may appear on a surface area not exceeding:

(...)

(xii) In addition, each Discipline may specify in its relevant Sport Rules that the name or logo of the Athlete's nation, its national symbol and/or its national flag, and/or the Athlete's NF logo or name may appear on another part of the clothing, equipment and/or vehicles.

10. Appendix E – CIMs

FEI Bureau Recommendations:

Further to the proposed changes to the Jumping Rules, the Category U25 is being added to the list of CIMs in Appendix E:

Proposed wording:

APPENDIX E – CIMs

JUMPING	CSI1* & CSI2*, CSIYH1* & CSIYH2*
	CSI, Y, J, Ch, V, Am, U25 – Category A & B,

11. Additional Comments received from NFs

NED NF Comments:

Article 120 - Chef D'Equipe

We recommend that the function of a chef d'equipe is described; this should also be done for a chef de mission at the World Equestrian Games and combined continental championships. (A chef de mission is now only mentioned in art 123 concerning the Olympic Games):

In the discipline specific rules is mentioned (beside the athletes and horses): a non-riding Chef d'Equipe and a Team Veterinarian must be included in the official invitation to the National Federation(s) concerned. Therefore we suggest that in the GR will be added for the WEG and continental championships: Besides the invitations mentioned in the Discipline rules a Chef de Mission (and a dep. Chef de Mission in case when a NF competes in the championships in at least 4 disciplines) must be included in the official invitation to the National Federation(s) concerned.

FEI Bureau Recommendations:

The role and responsibilities of the Chef d'Equipe are already described in art. 120. In addition, as the above proposal from the NED NF had not been included in the First Draft, it is proposed that the matter be discussed during next year's rule revision process so that each NF can provide the FEI with its feedback/comments.

GER NF Comments:

Use of the term “Nations’ Cup” for CIO’s in all disciplines and age categories:

We would like to remind you of our e-mail of 23 May 2017 in this regard. Do not differentiate between CIO and Nations’ Cup. Again: every “O” is a Nations’ Cup! Do not try to reserve the term “Nations’ Cup” for FEI Series only.

We propose to align all FEI Rules and Regulations to allow the term “Nations’ Cup” to be used for every team competition at a CIO, regardless what discipline or what age group. In all disciplines this has always been the term used by members of the equestrian family when talking about an “O”: Nations’ Cup.

So the FEI Rules should reflect it in all disciplines. The GR and Discipline Rules should include that the Nations’ Cup is the official international team competition and may only be organised on the occasion of a CIO.

FEI Bureau Recommendations:

It is proposed not to add any provision in the General Regulations as not all the Disciplines have Nations Cup competitions (such as Endurance, Driving, Reining, Para-Dressage). However, it is agreed that the term “Nations Cup” can be used as a class (but not as an Event) even if it is not part of an FEI Series.

POL NF Comments:

1. There are definitions in the GR for Competition, Event, Period of an Event and in Art.155 (Stewards) there is an articulation „During the whole Event”. I suggest to precise that (other than „Period of the Event), as a period of the official opening of the stables (official day and hour is always in the Schedule VI.1 – opening of stables) and terminates half an hour after the announcement of the final results in the relevant Discipline, unless the Sport Rules for the respective Discipline provide otherwise.

2. GR Art.169. 7.1 and in DR Art. 911. 2.1. I suggest to change this sentence into the following one: „The President of the Ground Jury, the President of the Appeal Committee must notify the Person Responsible during the Period of the Event, and the Chief Steward or the Technical Delegate must notify the Person Responsible during the whole Event that he will receive a Yellow Warning Card, which will be delivered either by hand or by any other suitable means. If after reasonable efforts the Athlete cannot be notified during the Period of the whole Event that he has received a Yellow Warning Card, the Athlete must be notified in writing within fourteen (14) days of the Event.” This would clear up the situation of failing

to comply with the Art. 169.6.2 or 6.3, for example: during training 1 or 2 days before the Horse Inspection.

FEI Bureau Recommendations:

It is proposed not to amend the General Regulations as the above-mentioned proposal was not provided in the First Draft. In addition, this matter had already been considered by the Bureau in the past as well and it was felt that the definition of the "Period of an Event" should not be amended as the consequences were too important (for example, for controlled medication purposes, the Period of an Event means the period during which controlled medications cannot be used and thus expanding such definition would mean that horses would not be allowed to be given controlled medications during such extended time).

FRA NF and EEF Driving Working Group Comments:

Art 104 FEI Championships
Art 104.1.1.3

Referring to the Para Driving figures and the parallel with Para Dressage discipline we suggest that the World Para Driving Championship may be organized each 2 years instead of each year. This point was debated at the EEF driving Working meeting from Aachen and this conclusion was supported by the working group.

FEI Bureau Recommendations:

The FEI Bureau recommends to amend this article accordingly, especially as this year's FEI World Para Driving Championship had to be cancelled due to not enough participation.

Proposed wording:

Article 104 - FEI Championships

1. FEI WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS:

(...)

1.1.2. For Endurance, Vaulting, ~~and~~ Reining, and Para Equestrian Driving: in each even year

1.1.3. For Driving ~~and Para-Equestrian Driving~~: in each year.

SUI NF Comments:

The "Blood Rule":

We think that this rule should be the same principle for all disciplines and not only for show jumping and therefore should be incorporated in the GR

as a general rule with potential differentiations in the discipline rules (possibly Art. 141/142).

Why should something be not ok in one discipline but in another one?

As already written by the EEF, any softening of the current rule is for various reasons not recommendable and has some inherent risks. It has to be clearly defined and applied the same way for everybody. There should be no room for interpretation for the official. This to have a fair application.

We think that only injuries created by the rider should be sanctioned.

An option might be to check if there is any blood before the horse goes into the arena. If everything is fine then, the result should count anyway. If there is blood when coming out of the arena there could be a punishment with different levels: for example using the existing yellow/red card system.

For severe cases a sanction of the rider should be considered and enforced. But for cases without a fault of the rider a sanction would not be necessary and too tough.

FEI Bureau Recommendations:

Please refer to the FEI Bureau's comment under point # 2 (that the FEI Bureau is of the opinion that each Discipline should have its specific provision(s) regarding blood. However, all Disciplines will now be harmonized as to the consequences; Elimination will be applied across all Disciplines).