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FÉDÉRATION ÉQUESTRE INTERNATIONALE

PROPOSALS FOR 2026 RULES CHANGES

NOTE 1: This Template must be used in 2026 to propose changes only to:

- Statutes
- Internal Regulations of the FEI
- General Regulations
- Jumping Rules
- Eventing Rules
- Endurance Rules
- Driving & Para Driving Rules
- Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations

NOTE 2: With the exception of the Statutes, Internal Regulations of the FEI and the General Regulations, you must indicate which of the six criteria defined in the Periodical Rules Revision Policy your proposed rule change is based on.

NOTE 3: Please use one table below for each proposed rule change. You may copy and paste the table for each proposal.

NOTE 4: The table below contains sections for each phase of the 2026 Revision Process. Please complete only the relevant sections in accordance with the 2026 Rules Revision Timeline.

NOTE 5: To facilitate FEI HQ's review, please submit your document in Word format only (not PDF).

NOTE 6: For any questions, please first consult the "User's Guide" or contact the FEI at francisco.lima@fei.org

NOTE 7:

- NF : National Federation
- MOU SH : MOU Stakeholder

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FÉDÉRATION ÉQUESTRE INTERNATIONALE

Rules Book

Driving & Para Driving Rules

Article No.–Article Name

Table of Contents

Proposal from (Name of NF or MOU SH)

ICDA – International Carriage Drivers Association

Explanation for Proposed Change: specify the Criteria from the Periodical Rules Revision Policy

Criteria : incomplete

928 is not in Table of Contents

1 March 2026: Proposed Wording by NFs/MOU SHs

ARTICLE 925 ENTRIES WORLD DRIVING SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP FOR PARA DRIVING 20
ARTICLE 926 EXPENSES AND PRIVILEGES 20
CHAPTER V ATHLETES AND GROOMS 21
ARTICLE 927 ADDITIONAL INDIVIDUAL ENTRIES FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS AND CAIOS 21
CHAPTER VI HORSES 24
ARTICLE 929 AGE OF HORSES 24
ARTICLE 930 HEIGHT 24
ARTICLE 931 NUMBER OF HORSES 24

7 September 2026: Comments on 1st Draft Received by NFs

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6 November 2026: FEI Feedback on proposals/comments received

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FÉDÉRATION ÉQUESTRE INTERNATIONALE

Rules Book

Driving & Para Driving Rules

Article No.–Article Name

928.1. Dress, safety and whips

Proposal from (Name of NF or MOU SH)

ICDA – International Carriage Drivers Association

Explanation for Proposed Change: specify the Criteria from the Periodical Rules Revision Policy

Criteria based on: New or recently introduced rule(s) that have proven problematic in their implementation / Other scenarios not foreseen by the Policy

The proposal submitted for Article 928.1 was a late amendment which did not provide sufficient time for further consultation by all Stakeholders.

ICDA believes that the proposal misunderstood the feedback from NFs and Stakeholders. We re attach the feedback from NFs which was included in the Final draft of the Driving rules submitted to the GA dated 10 October 2025. ICDA does not support the decision for the mandatory use of helmets. The key point is that a "recommendation" should not be included in the Driving Rules. We agree with this conclusion. We agree with the proposal to recommend the use of helmets but this should be a guidance, separate from the rules, and not mandatory. The FEI changed their own proposal to a mandatory use.

A number of leading NFs were concerned that a recommendation was not appropriate for inclusing in the rule book and either wished the recommendation to be included elsewhere or wanted to take a decision one way or the other.

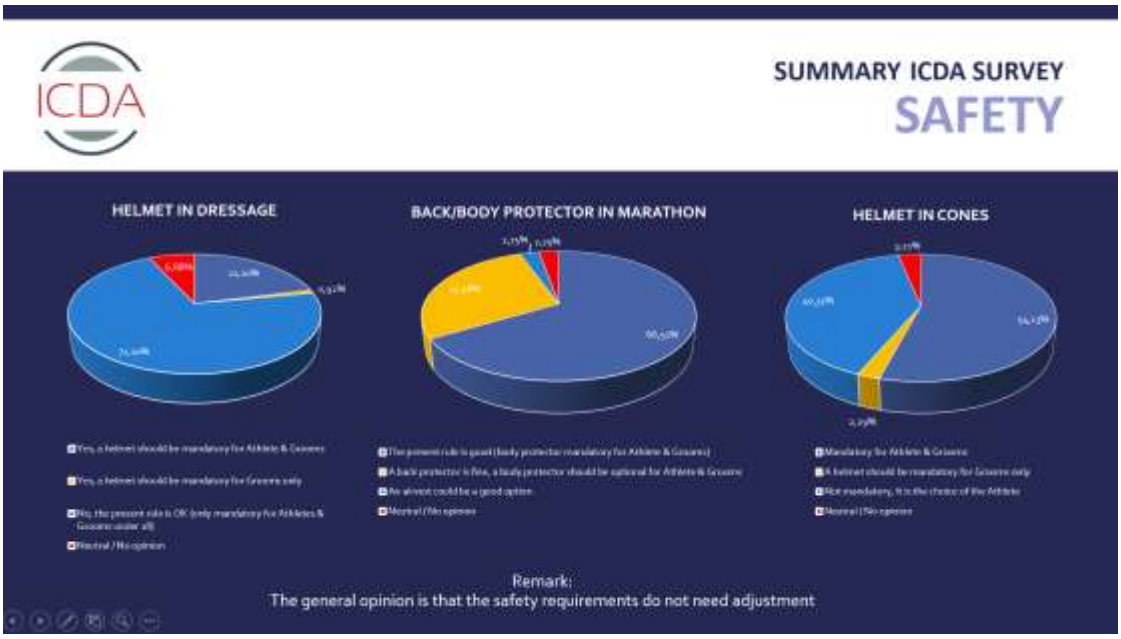
Feedback (August 2025) from NFs / Stakeholders on the FEI proposal to have the protective headgear as 'strongly recommended':

- **EEF, GER:** Protective headgear should also be mandatory in Training and Warm Up for the Cones Phase, not only during competition.
  2.10. In Training and Warm-Up for the Cones Phase and during Cones, it is compulsory for all persons to wear a properly fastened protective Headgear.
- **NED:** Either implement the helmet requirement or remove it from the regulations. Regulations serve as binding rules that govern the conduct of competitions and the responsibilities of participants and organizers. Including non-binding recommendations within regulatory texts can lead to confusion, inconsistent enforcement, and misinterpretation.
- **SUI:** Headgear must be compulsory or not! But "strongly recommendend" is not a rule for the rule book.
- **USA:** 928.3.2 We support the FEI's proposal. We would support this proposal regarding protective headgear if "strongly recommended" was removed and instead it was noted that use of protective headgear could not be penalized by the judges as recommendations should not be included in the rules.

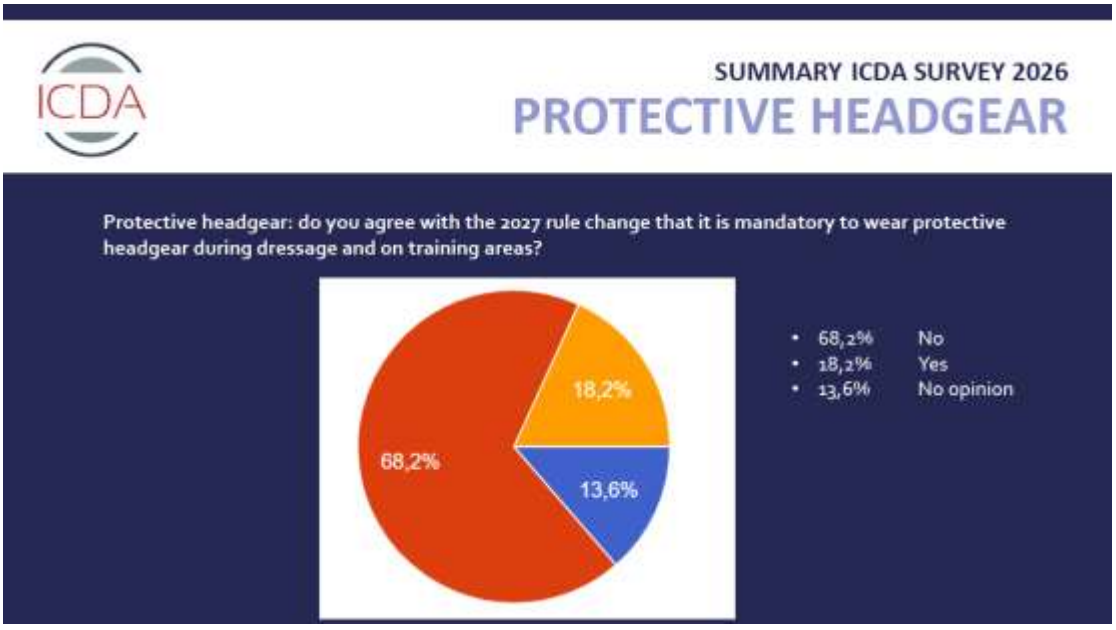
ICDA's representative at the GA publicly stated that the mandatory helmet rule would be "deeply unpopular". This is borne out by feedback from two surveys from athletes in January 2025 and February 2026 which showed that the majority voted against mandatory wearing of helmet:

- Survey 2025: 71.1% (6.9% no opinion, 21.1% in favor of helmet)
- Survey 2026: 68.2% (13.8% no opinion, 18.2% in favor of helmet)

ICDA Survey 2025 – only ICDA members could response (353 responses)



ICDA Survey 2026 – ICDA & non-ICDA members could response (434 responses)



Therefore, we are of the opinion that Article 928.1.2 should be deleted.

1 March 2026: Proposed Wording by NFs/MOU SHs

~~1.1. As of 1 January 2026, while~~ While riding on a carriage anywhere on the show grounds, ~~the use of a properly fastened Protective Headgear is strongly recommended for all persons riding on the Carriage. Such Protective headgear must comply with the list of international testing standards published on the FEI website.~~

~~1.2. As of 1 January 2027, while riding on a carriage anywhere on the show grounds, the use of a properly fastened Protective Headgear is mandatory for all persons riding on the~~

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~~carriage. In the first instance of non-compliance, the Athlete will be notified by an Official to put on Protective Headgear. Failure to comply following such notification will result in a Yellow Warning Card. Continued non-compliance after the issue of a Yellow Warning Card will result in Elimination. Protective Headgear must comply with the list of international testing standards published on the FEI website~~.

20 July 2026: 1st Draft submitted by FEI to NFs and MOU SHs

Click or tap here to enter text.

7 September 2026: Comments on 1st Draft Received by NFs

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6 November 2026: FEI Feedback on proposals/comments received

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6 November 2026: Final Draft for vote at the FEI General Assembly 2026

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FÉDÉRATION ÉQUESTRE INTERNATIONALE

Rules Book

Driving & Para Driving Rules

Article No.–Article Name

935.2.1. First Horse Inspection

Proposal from (Name of NF or MOU SH)

ICDA – International Carriage Drivers Association

Explanation for Proposed Change: specify the Criteria from the Periodical Rules Revision Policy

Criteria based on: Other scenarios not foreseen by the Policy, as considered and approved by the Board.

In the ICDA Survey of January 2025 it was stated that the duration of CAIs is too long. Having the First Horse Inspection one of even two days before the actual start of the first Competition of some classes, the expenses for an OC and Athletes are high. By conducting the First Horse Inspection for CAIs in Harness will save time and money.

In conjunction with the ICDA proposal for revision of Art. 1033 of the Veterinary Regulations, ICDA requests to change the setup for the First Horse Inspection (prior to dressage) for CAIs.

For the first inspections in Harness an additional Judge will be needed during the dressage day(s).

1 March 2026: Proposed Wording by NFs/MOU SHs

2.1. This must take place at all Events before the start of the first Competition.
For CAIs the First Horse Inspection must be carried out in harness before the turnout starts the Dressage test. It must be performed under the supervision of an FEI judge, the Veterinary Delegate and/or the President of the Veterinary Commission and a Steward, reporting to the president of the Ground Jury. The Horse(s) must be presented by the Athletes themselves; Competing without presenting will result in an Elimination.

For CAIOs and Championships the First Horse Inspection will be in hand.

7 September 2026: Comments on 1st Draft Received by NFs

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6 November 2026: FEI Feedback on proposals/comments received

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6 November 2026: Final Draft for vote at the FEI General Assembly 2026

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Rules Book
Driving & Para Driving Rules
Article No.–Article Name
Art. 928.1. Art. 928.2.
Proposal from (Name of NF or MOU SH)
ICDA – International Carriage Drivers Association
Explanation for Proposed Change: specify the Criteria from the Periodical Rules Revision Policy
Incorrect wording – new line Although ICDA's recommendation is to delete Art.928.1 completely, the header of this Article should be 2 lines. Header for Art. 928.2. is not correct.
1 March 2026: Proposed Wording by NFs/MOU SHs
2. Dress in Dressage and Cones ~~on a Dressage Carriage~~
7 September 2026: Comments on 1st Draft Received by NFs
Click or tap here to enter text.
6 November 2026: FEI Feedback on proposals/comments received
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FÉDÉRATION ÉQUESTRE INTERNATIONALE

Rules Book

Driving & Para Driving Rules

Article No.–Article Name

Art. 962.3.6. Inspection of the Course

Proposal from (Name of NF or MOU SH)

ICDA – International Carriage Drivers Association

Explanation for Proposed Change: specify the Criteria from the Periodical Rules Revision Policy

New/recently introduced rule(s) that has(ve) proven to be problematic in its implementation

While this is not a newly introduced rule, the rule has not been strictly enforced Enforcement of a rule that never has been enforced but is now requested to being enforced. The proposed change will allow for athletes who not have FEI Para classification athletes with temporary mobility limitations to utilize vehicles for mobility assistance in the obstacles and cones course with aproval of the TD.

Driving should be an inclusive sport. It cannot be the case that a person who breaks his foot or worse, and who is temporarily not mobile, cannot compete for a month or more.

1 March 2026: Proposed Wording by NFs/MOU SHs

The Obstacles may only be inspected on foot. No motor vehicles or bicycles may be taken inside any part of an Obstacle. The Technical Delegate in consultation with the organizer may approve the use of motor vehicles or bicycles inside the obstacles for athletes with mobility limitations and providing a letter of medical necessity by a licensed health care provider. Failure to comply with be penalised by the issue of a Warning for the first infringement and a Yellow Card for the second.

7 September 2026: Comments on 1st Draft Received by NFs

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6 November 2026: FEI Feedback on proposals/comments received

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Rules Book

Driving & Para Driving Rules

Article No.–Article Name

Art. 969 Summary of Penalties in Marathon and in Combined Marathon

Proposal from (Name of NF or MOU SH)

ICDA – International Carriage Drivers Association

Explanation for Proposed Change: specify the Criteria from the Periodical Rules Revision Policy

Incorrect Article number

1 March 2026: Proposed Wording by NFs/MOU SHs

962.3.5. -> 962.3.6.

Motorised vehicles or bicycles in Obstacles. First Incident Second Incident	962.3.5	 Warning Yellow card

7 September 2026: Comments on 1st Draft Received by NFs

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Driving & Para Driving Rules

Article No.–Article Name

Art. 973.7.1. Inspection of the Course

Proposal from (Name of NF or MOU SH)

ICDA – International Carriage Drivers Association

Explanation for Proposed Change: specify the Criteria from the Periodical Rules Revision Policy

New/recently introduced rule(s) that has(ve) proven to be problematic in its implementation

While this is not a newly introduced rule, the rule has not been strictly enforced. Enforcement of a rule that never has been enforced but is now requested to being enforced. The proposed change will allow for athletes who not have FEI Para classification athletes with temporary mobility limitations to utilize vehicles for mobility assistance in the obstacles and cones course with aproval of the TD.

Driving should be an inclusive sport. It cannot be the case that a person who breaks his foot or worse, and who is temporarily not mobile, cannot compete for a month or more.

1 March 2026: Proposed Wording by NFs/MOU SHs

The Course must be open for inspection at least one hour and forty five minutes before the start of the Phase. A 15 minute window must be observed between the end of the inspection and the first start. Only Chefs D'Equipe (when applicable), Athletes and one accompanying person per Athlete at a time are allowed to inspect the Course on foot and they must be correctly and smartly dressed. The Technical Delegate in consultation with the organizer may approve the use of motor vehicles or bicycles for athletes with mobility limitations and providing a letter of medical necessity by a licensed health care provider. Athletes and their accompanying person and Chef d'Equipe are not permitted to use measuring wheels when inspecting the Course. At an Event, a warning will be issued for the first offence and a Yellow Warning Card from the President of the Ground Jury for subsequent offences.

7 September 2026: Comments on 1st Draft Received by NFs

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6 November 2026: FEI Feedback on proposals/comments received

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Rules Book

Driving & Para Driving Rules

Article No.–Article Name

Annex 15 FEI Driving Continental Championship for Horses

Proposal from (Name of NF or MOU SH)

ICDA – International Carriage Drivers Association

Explanation for Proposed Change: specify the Criteria from the Periodical Rules Revision Policy

Rationale

As set out in the 2025 Rules, "the rulebook is not finalised" and the provision "serves as placeholder for the final wording which will be presented in 2026". It is therefore only right that further comments/rule changes can be submitted, particularly as the current drafting has major implications for the future direction of driving.

As currently proposed the Continental Horse Championships adversely impacts both Para Driving and H4 Classes, whilst only offering limited participation to the other Horse classes (H1 and H2) given the restrictions on the number of participating athletes (two per class). Two successful formats are compromised and the new format will only serve to reduce athlete participation.

The new format is highly damaging to the future of Para Driving which based on a numbers cap will never be able to exploit its true potential. Access to the appropriate facilities will also be at risk given the much larger number of competitors and support staff at a Continental Championships. Para needs in terms of course design for marathon and cones will be swamped by the much larger number of athletes competing in the Continental Championships. These issues need to be addressed before any decision is taken to proceed and far outweighs the limited benefit that comes from the small elite of H1 and H2 athletes who will gain an additional championship.
What driving needs is to broaden its appeal. This will achieve the reverse by limiting the number of athletes by class.

The switch in the World Championships will also mean that H1, H2 and H4 will be competing for venues in the same at a time when the number of OCs willing to host such major events is limited. It puts huge strain on the support teams, many of whom help all of these three classes in one way or another.

ICDA believes that the Continental Horse Championships should take the form of separate Championships for H1 and H2.

1 March 2026: Proposed Wording by NFs/MOU SHs

Leave the Continental Championships H4 in list of classes and add separate Continental Championships for H1 and H2.

Keep calendar:
- even years WDC H4 and H1, CDC U25
- odd years WDC H2, Para, WDC Ponies & CDC H4,

Add to calendar:
- even years: CDC H2
- odd years: CDC H1

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Rules Book

Driving & Para Driving Rules

Article No.–Article Name

Art. 958.1.3 Classification

Proposal from (Name of NF or MOU SH)

ICDA – International Carriage Drivers Association

Explanation for Proposed Change: specify the Criteria from the Periodical Rules Revision Policy

A Driving Scoring System Working Group has been set up by the FEI. Whilst this is a welcome step, it is not what was proposed and discussed at the General Assembly in Hong Kong. A number of Federations, together with ICDA, proposed changes to Dressage Scoring and it was this that was proposed by the Driving Department in the Rules discussion. In response to the presentation by the FEI Driving Department, both EEF and ICDA argued for early implementation of the conclusions of the Working Group. Now that the Working Group is looking at marathon and cones phases as well as dressage the outcome of the working group will inevitably be delayed beyond the 2026 Rules Revision

ICDA therefore proposes to resubmit its recommendation to move dressage to a percentage basis, thus giving the flexibility to incorporate the working group's early findings on dressage scoring in this Rules Revision.

1 March 2026: Proposed Wording by NFs/MOU SHs

2026: In order to adjust the influence of Driven Dressage on the whole Event, where the total possible marks for the Test are greater than 160, the average score will be multiplied by the coefficient printed on the score sheet to obtain the adjusted average score to be used in the results. From 2027 all scores will be converted to percentages, based on a maximum score of 100%. The average score will be used in the results to obtain the base for calculation of the overall results.

7 September 2026: Comments on 1st Draft Received by NFs

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6 November 2026: FEI Feedback on proposals/comments received

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6 November 2026: Final Draft for vote at the FEI General Assembly 2026

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Article No.–Article Name
Art. 958.1.4 Classification
Proposal from (Name of NF or MOU SH)
ICDA – International Carriage Drivers Association
Explanation for Proposed Change: specify the Criteria from the Periodical Rules Revision Policy
A Driving Scoring System Working Group has been set up by the FEI. Whilst this is a welcome step, it is not what was proposed and discussed at the General Assembly in Hong Kong. A number of Federations, together with ICDA, proposed changes to Dressage Scoring and it was this that was proposed by the Driving Department in the Rules discussion. In response to the presentation by the FEI Driving Department, both EEF and ICDA argued for early implementation of the conclusions of the Working Group. Now that the Working Group is looking at marathon and cones phases as well as dressage the outcome of the working group will inevitably be delayed beyond the 2026 Rules Revision. ICDA therefore proposes to resubmit its recommendation to move dressage to a percentage basis, thus giving the flexibility to incorporate the working group's early findings on dressage scoring in this Rules Revision.
1 March 2026: Proposed Wording by NFs/MOU SHs
Penalties are only awarded by the President of the Ground Jury at C. Any penalties will be deducted from the adjusted average score and the final total will be deducted from 160 to obtain the penalties for the Test. From 2027 the final total percentage as described in Art. 958.1.3 will be deducted from ~~160~~ 100 to obtain the penalties for the Dressage Test.
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