



Equestrian Australia Endurance Committee - UPDATE

Meeting held: Wednesday 21 August 2019 (Teleconference)

Below is a summary of proceedings at the recent Endurance Committee meeting:

1. MOU with AERA

Discussion regarding the current MOU with AERA. Areas of concern and where improvements could be made.

On reviewing the MOU the following motion was made with agreement that the relationship with the AERA was an appropriate and useful relationship to maintain.

Motion: Recommendation AERA remain affiliated with EA and the EA Endurance Committee supports renewing the EA & AERA Agreement for a further 3 years.

Carried

2. Info for rider organisers, riders, horse owners

Discussion around ride information provided that could assist OS's and riders – 'Hints for Navigating FEI/EA Requirements' located on Bullio Ride site could be used on EA website and State AERA websites.

3. Team Camp

Pre-questionnaire information providing:

- Approx. 20 people indicated they were interested in attending
- Topics of Interest: How to train for International Competitions; Horse & Rider Nutrition; Horse & Rider Fitness; How Team Selection is handled; Proposed Rule changes and future of the Sport internationally.

Possible format 1-5pm, running 2 sessions. Presenters to be considered.

4. FEI proposed rules feedback

Discussion on proposed rules as circulated. Feedback submitted as per attached.

5. Trans-Tasman

EOI's coming in. Closing date 30 August 2019.

EA Recommendations for FEI Endurance Rules 2020

Proposal	Proposed rule change	Comments
A1	<p>Approval of rules on the basis of Horse Welfare</p> <p>FEI Statutes 20.4</p> <p>Proposal: Where a rule change is judged to have a clear potential benefit to Horse welfare, the FEI Board should be able to require changes to be made when it is judged to be necessary.</p> <p>The ETC recommends a new Art 20.4 of the FEI Statutes accordingly.</p>	<p>This rule change should be rejected because of the implications to the rule making process.</p> <p>The vast majority of rules can be construed as being related to horse welfare. While EA are firmly in favour of optimal horse welfare, this will provide leeway for the FEI to change virtually any rules with regards to endurance without consultation with the Federations. EA suggest speeding up the consultation/feedback process rather than eliminating the voice of the Federations.</p>
B1	<p>802.5.1 may require (for all other Championships) the organizer of a Championship to host a test event at least six months prior to the Championship</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>EA suggest that a test event under the same climatic conditions should also be conducted, which may mean an event 12 months before the championship, to satisfactorily test all aspects of the venue and region and the impact on horse welfare and safety.</p>
B2	<p>Proposal:</p> <p>Minimum Weights:</p> <p>805.1</p> <p>CEI 2* and 3* (regardless of the Athlete's age): 70 kg (including all riding equipment, except for the bridle)</p> <p>CEIOsandChampionships(irrespectiveofstarlevel/distance,and regardless of the Athlete's age): 70 kg (including all riding equipment, except for the bridle)</p>	<p>EA reject this rule.</p> <p>To reduce riding weight to 70 kg discriminates against many races of the world, and especially males who will struggle to comply with that minimum weight. For example, the 2012 Australian Bureau of Statistics reports average weights for Australians as males 85 kg and females 71 kg; and the trend is for individuals to grow taller and heavier.</p> <p>Such a weight restriction would thus prevent many Western owners/riders from competing at that level and lead to a greater use of lightweight jockeys. This is a negative for horse welfare, at a time when the rules should be encouraging greater incentive to develop the rider/horse connection. The knowledge of one's horse and emotional connection with the horse is paramount to protecting horse welfare.</p> <p>Ensuring excellent equestrianism by the rider, good training and conditioning of the horse, and appropriate speed are better means by which to control the workload of the horse and therefore the risk.</p>



EA Recommendations for FEI Endurance Rules 2020

B3	807.2 Staggered starts may be used for single-day CEI 1* Events 848 Maximum number of starters	Agree
B4	Increase sanction for removing a horse from the field of play 810 and 865 Defined time in which to present for Veterinary Inspection any Horse removed (voluntarily or otherwise) from Competition, and relevant sanctions.	Agree
B5	Requirements for Loops 814.4.2 Each Loop must be a minimum of 20 km and a maximum of 40 km in length. 814.4.5 Minimum number of loops: 6 for 160km, 4 for 120km, 3 for 80km;	Length of loops: agree The option (previously 800.2.3) to negotiate a minimum of 5 loops for a 160 km event should be retained, because of the challenges at some events of finding suitable track.
	5km distance between crew points and no crewing in between; maximum 10km distance between water points.	Crewing restrictions: Agree. The athlete should manage the horse carefully without the need for continuous crewing which may encourage speeds faster than the horse should travel. Water availability: Agree with water available at least every 10 km. Options should also be explored to ensure horses are stopped for a drink at those water points (eg walk through zones, hold at water on course)
B6	Proposal: 817.4.1 Heart rate parameters will be 64 beats per minute in a presentation time of 15 minutes at all vet gates, 64 bpm in 20 minutes at the final Horse inspection.	The published research indicates a higher risk of subsequent elimination and metabolic compromise for horses with heart rate over 60 beats per minute (bpm) , therefore EA believe this rule should be further altered to reflect that, ie that heart rate parameters should be 60 bpm within 15 minutes at all vet gates, and 60 bpm within 20 minutes at the final inspection.



EA Recommendations for FEI Endurance Rules 2020

	817.4.3 Horses that present with a heart rate greater than 68 bpm at the first presentation will be designated as Failed to Qualify - metabolic (FTQ-ME), without any opportunity to present a second time.	Agree. The athlete should know and manage the horse sufficiently well to assess when that horse should be presented for inspection.
B7	Chapter III - Arts. 819.1 (Access to the Field of Play) and 826.4 (Permitted assistance during an Event or on course) Limit the number of crew to 3 persons in crew areas, reinforcing the responsibility of the Athlete to ride his/her Horse according to the conditions, without excessive reliance on the crew.	In principle EA agree with this restriction, which makes it more equitable for those riders who do not have a large team, and limits the opportunity for horses to be hidden behind people, therefore ensuring better transparency in the field of play. The team veterinarian and Chef d'Equipe should be additional to the 3 crew per horse. Suitable viewing areas outside the field of play will allow spectators and family members to watch carefully while remaining safe.
B8	Tack/Equipment & Horse Abuse Chapter III – Art. 828 Dye, Henna and Barrier Cream not to be used	Agree that no creams should be applied prior to veterinary inspection. However, for on track use, there are some creams and products which are safe and limit abrasions to lower limbs from sand and other soil, thus maintaining horse welfare, and these should be allowed.
	Art. 829 (Tack and Equipment) and Annex 8 (Diagrams of Blinkers and Cheek Pieces)	Agree
B9	Chapter IV – Art. 830.2 (To be registered with the FEI as the Trainer of a Horse) and Art. 832 (Registration) Proposal: The registered Trainer must be at least 18 years old. Substitution of the registered Trainer of a Horse taking part in an Event will not be allowed after the date of Definite Entries. When a Horse has a change of registered Trainer, the Horse will not be permitted to compete for 30 days.	Agree in principle; however, recommend that the 30 days should be increased to 90 days for horses transferred to a new trainer when the original trainer has been suspended . Otherwise a trainer can be suspended, then a new trainer appointed and the horses continue to race 4 weeks later. This is not a big enough penalty for infringing trainers/owners.



EA Recommendations for FEI Endurance Rules 2020

B10	Chapter IV – Art. 834 (Mandatory Out Of Competition Periods – MOOCP-) Longer MOOCPs to be applied.	Agree with the additional 7 days for horses completing at higher speed. EA are concerned that the MOOCP for FTQ-ME are reduced and not linked to the need for invasive treatment, and that the additional time out of competition has been removed for horses on their first and second FTQ-GA. EA would recommend reconsidering all the MCOOPs to ensure coverage of the variety of conditions horses develop.
B11	Qualifications 837 and 838: completions and speed cap	Agree with the principle that successful completions should be rewarded
	839.1 and 839.2 Novice qualifications and exemptions	EA recommend maintaining the current rule as: Horses & Athletes who have accumulated a minimum of 240 km in a maximum of three events of 80km or higher in a 36 months period, can be granted an exemption. EA believe that this is a suitable novice qualification system, as has been in operation in Australia for some decades. However, EA are pleased to have exemptions retained in the rules.
	840.4 CEI1*	EA cannot agree to the qualification rules, which we believe will seriously limit or stop FEI competition in Australia. The majority of endurance rides conducted in Australia are conducted under national rules, and the costs and distance in the country make it very difficult to conduct multiple FEI events. Therefore there are insufficient opportunities for athletes and horses to progress through the star rating, in the time allowed. The inclusion of these new qualifying rules will make it virtually impossible for Australia to retain any engagement with the FEI endurance competition. These rules therefore incentivise people to fly to other countries and ride leased horses with which they do not have strong connections or knowledge of. Any rule that disincentivises riders to ride their own



EA Recommendations for FEI Endurance Rules 2020

		<p>horse that they train and know will result in a significant horse welfare risk. This is less the case in other equestrian disciplines but in endurance intimate knowledge of, and emotional connection with your horse is paramount to achieve good horsemanship and animal welfare outcomes.</p> <p>EA propose that either:</p> <p>A) <u>national rides also be included in the main rules, while ensuring that athletes and horses are experienced</u></p> <p>OR</p> <p>B) countries with strong national endurance competitions but few FEI rides be allowed additional exemptions and dispensations, as per those exemptions provided for novice qualifying under 839.2</p> <p>For example:</p> <p>840.4.2 (a) Athletes and Horses must successfully complete five competitions of distance from 80-119km including a minimum of one CEI 1* Competition at a maximum speed of 18 km/hour or at the speed linked to their Completion Rate, whichever is lower.</p> <p>EA also propose that continued successful performance rides of 80-119 km (national and CEI 1*) be allowed in combination with CEI2* completion to qualify a rider to compete at the 3* level:</p> <p>840.6.1 Qualifying to compete at CEI 3*:</p> <p>Horses and Athletes must successfully complete a minimum of two CEI 2* Competitions within a rolling three-year period, the first at a speed cap that complies with Article 840.5.2(a), and the second at a speed cap that complies with Article 840.5.2(b). OR a minimum of one CEI 2* and three competitions of distance 80-119 km (CEI1* or CEN), complying with the speed cap.</p>
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EA Recommendations for FEI Endurance Rules 2020

	<p>841.2.4 For Young Rider/Junior and Senior Championships:</p> <p>(a) two of the required CEI Events in the table at Article 841.2.2 must have been in combination with the nominated Athlete/Horse (for Senior 3* Championships one of the combination rides must have been at the CEI 3* level);</p>	<p>EA disagree with the requirement for 2 combination qualifying rides, due to the difficulty and expense for Australian riders to take their own horses to other countries to compete. With the removal of elite status, this proposal decreases the options for our riders, and makes it much more difficult especially for young riders who may not have the funds for repeated international trips or to send their own horse overseas.</p>
B12	<p>Chapter VII – Art. 850 (Rotation of Officials), Art. 854 (President of the Ground Jury and the Foreign Judge Report), Art. 857 (Independent Governance Advisors), Art. 849 (Appointments) and Annex 6 (Required Officials/levels/ratio)</p> <p>Proposal:</p> <p>Introduce rotation of Officials, as per the recommendation of the FEI Officials’ Working Group, and direct appointment of Officials by the FEI in certain circumstances.</p>	<p>Attention to the appointment of officials needs to consider developing and isolated nations such that the cost of hosting FEI competition is not increased through the requirement of specific officials.</p>
B13	<p>807.1 Veterinary inspection in case of visible blood</p>	<p>Agree</p>
Additional changes	<p>Annex 5 9.6 and 9.7b</p>	<p>The inclusion of the word “verbally” in how the veterinarians will communicate to the ground jury should be removed; silent written voting ensures the votes are independent, and also protects the vets from being overheard.</p>
	<p>Annex 6 Officials required for events: The star rating for officials has been increased</p>	<p>EA protest at the increased star rating requirement for officials, particularly the requirement for 3 star officials for CEI1* events, and the requirement for 3* Chief Stewards from CEI1* up.</p> <p>These requirements increase the cost to conduct the ride requiring officials of higher star rating to be brought in from other regions, while decreasing the chances that officials have to perform and qualify.</p>



EA Recommendations for FEI Endurance Rules 2020

	<p>Veterinary Officials for CEI3*: proposal that:</p> <p>3) At least half of the members of the Veterinary Commission (including the President and Foreign Veterinary Delegate) must be 'Foreign', in accordance with Article 849</p>	<p>EA protest against this proposal, on the grounds that it will substantially increase the costs for conducting CEI3* events within Australia, to require foreign veterinarians as half the veterinary commission, including both President and Foreign Veterinary Delegate. International and interstate travel to and in Australia covers extreme distance, compared to most other regions in the world, and therefore imposes substantial increase in costs to conduct the ride. With most CEIs in Australia run with very small numbers of riders, there are limited opportunities for officials to work at rides, and the requirements for imported veterinarians, at high star rating, will seriously limit the engagement and opportunities for local veterinarians to contribute to the sport.</p> <p>EA support our NZ colleagues in their proposal to allow NZ veterinarians from the different (South and North) NZ Islands to be considered as foreign to each other.</p>
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