

Changes in FIPO, valid as of April 1, 2010 **Approved by FEIF Delegates' Assembly 2010**

1. Maximum number of tests per horse

Based upon an advise of the Welfare and Veterinary Commission the number of tests per horse per day will be limited.

The following rule will be added to FIPO 2.1:

- a. *if a horse is 5 years old, it may start twice per day, but no races and no cross country (however Pace Test and SpeedPass are allowed)*
- b. *if a horse is 6 years old, it may start 3 times per day*
- c. *if a horse is 7 years and older, it may start 4 times per day*
- d. *any preliminary round and final is considered to be a start*
- e. *in Pace Test, SpeedPass, Pace Race 250m and 150m 2 runs on one day are counted as 1 start*

Note: It is up to the organizers to check. If a rider disregarded this rule and already finished the test the rider should be disqualified of the test.

2. Shoeing

To solve the ongoing discussions about the rule regarding the length of the hoof and the angle of the pastern and to come closer to FIZO the maximum hoof length is reintroduced. This would also mean that there is no need any longer to measure the length of the wall. However a practical problem arises when it comes to measuring the height of a horse at sport competitions. For this reason the rule is not totally similar to the current FIZO-rule.

FIPO 2.3.1 and 2.3.2 will be changed into:

The hoof length must be natural and not exceed 9.5 cm. Exceptions to the 9.5 cm rule can be made when a written proof (e.g. from a breeding show or a veterinarian) is shown that the horse has a stick measurement of 145.0 cm or more, in which case a length up to 10.0 cm is allowed.

3. Protective material

Related to the welfare of the horse the weight of protective material should to be limited to 250 g per leg.

The first sentence of FIPO 2.4 will be changed into:

Protective equipment above the sole of the hoof, not exceeding 250 g per leg, is allowed. The protective equipment may not be changed between entering the oval track and finishing the test.

4. Protective equipment

Protective material that falls of during a test might be replaced in finals under certain conditions. This will also be allowed in the preliminary rounds of five gait classes while riders are waiting for the next pace run.

The 3rd paragraph of FIPO 2.4 will be changed into:

Equipment which breaks or falls off during the final round, or in the preliminary rounds of five gait classes with more then one horse in the track, may be replaced at the judges' discretion, during the interval when the marks are shown, or in the five gait classes,

when the horses are waiting for the pace run.

5. **Registration and inspection of soles at sport events**

As it is an administrative procedure to register horses with soles, it is up to the organizers to keep the records and inform the judges. To avoid unnecessary removal of shoeing or protective material the responsible judges decide how many horses are selected for inspections.

The 3rd paragraph of FIPO 2.4.2 will be changed into:

At every competition the riders using soles shall inform the organizer. The organizer will provide the head judge or the judge in charge of the shoeing check with a list of all horses wearing soles. Horses with soles may be selected by judges for a check (removal of one or more soles).

6. **Bad riding**

Judges are allowed to deduct for bad riding when they mark the different sections in a test. However this is often not recognizable in the final mark the rider gets in preliminary rounds, while low marks are an effective way to get rid of bad riding or wrong use of equipment.

For this reason the first paragraph of FIPO 5.3.1 will be changed as follows:

The judges use a scale of marks per section from 0.0 to 10.0 (inclusive), with half points. Their final mark is rounded to one decimal place. In tests with only two sections judges are allowed to add or detract 0.1 from this final mark. In addition, judges are allowed to deduct up to 2.0 (with half points) from the final mark for bad riding and/or rough aids.

Note: Judges' will use the yellow card if a deduction for rough riding has been made.

7. **Bucking and other vices**

The following will be added to FIPO 5.6:

- the horse shows serious disobedience.

Note: This rule is valid from the moment the horse is starting to enter the track to the moment the horse has left the track.

8. **Withdrawals**

The procedure to fill up finals after riders have withdrawn isn't clear for everybody.

The 2nd paragraph of FIPO 5.8 will be changed as follows:

If for any reason a horse is withdrawn or disqualified from a final and the total number of horses in the finals drops below 10 (or 5, if there is no B-final), the next available highest placed horse in the preliminary round will move up....

9. **Tie breaks**

FIPO 5.9 deals with tiebreak. The name of the article will be changed from Prizes into Tiebreak. It is not clear to all judges that they have to decide upon a winner of a tiebreak in case the marks are not distinctive. At the same time there is a strong wish to abolish the need to ride (a part of) the test once more, as it is very demanding for the horses.

FIPO 5.9 will be changed into:

In the case of equal marks for the first place, the judges determine the placing using the marks they gave before and showing the ranking, where they can only use the first position once. In pace test the four judges along the track plus the judge at the 150 m line will determine the placing. If horses have equal marks in other than first place they will share the place.



10. Equal marks in Pace Test

Currently, when two participants have the same final mark in Pace Test the time is decisive for the position in the ranking list. However Pace Test is a test, not a race.

The 3rd paragraph of FIPO 8.6.3 will be changed into:

The average of the marks of two runs decides the placing. In case of equal marks the marks given by the judges will decide the winner. In case the marks for the first place are equal a tiebreak has to be performed.

11. Pace on the oval track

The requirements for pace on the oval track can lead to unwanted situations. The requirements (as expressed in the guidelines) have been changed in such way that the exact spot for the transition into and from pace is changed into an area where the transition can take place, allowing the best performance of the horse. At the same time it is questionable if pace on a track less than 250m should be allowed, as the long side might be too short to show proper racing pace anyway. For shorter tracks a combined oval track (P-track) should be preferred. A change of rules is in effect. However to allow organizers to prepare for a change the rule will be effective January 1, 2014.

The following first sentence will be changed/added to F1 (8.4) and F2 (9.5.1)

This test is performed on an oval track with a minimum length of 250 m or on a combined oval track (P-track). This rule is valid as of January 1, 2014.

12. Four gait V3

When ranked in order of difficulties V3 has become too easy. This test (categorized in many countries as sport C) has now the same level of difficulty as V5 (mostly categorized as sport D) as the lowest mark for the worst gait (except slow to medium speed tölt) is disregarded. Offering the option to show fast trot is also not logic as fast trot is not an element in any other FIPO test.

FIPO 9.4.2.2 will be changed as follows:

9.4.2.2 Preliminary round

The test is ridden with two or more riders on the oval track. The horses show the gaits as instructed by the speaker as described in 5.4.2. They ride on the rein as set in the starting list.

Sections:

- 1. slow to medium speed tölt*
- 2. slow to medium speed trot*
- 3. medium walk*
- 4. slow to medium speed canter*
- 5. medium to fast tölt*

13. Five gait F3

In our current system of Five Gait tests F3 is not adding any value as in the calculation of the final mark the quality of the performance is not represented. This leads to too many similar results because one gait is skipped in the calculation.

For this reason this test will be removed from FIPO (9.5.2).

14. Starting order at World Championships

The complex procedure about the starting order at World Championships (per country, in starting blocks) will be simplified and made similar to other sport events by drawing the starting order randomly from individual participants, independent of their country.



FIPO 10.7.7 will be changed into:

The starting order will be drawn by lot. The starting order drawn up must be strictly adhered to; any change even with the consent of those concerned is forbidden.

If both the reigning combination winner and the reigning test winner are to defend their titles in the same test, the test winner shall start as last rider and the combination winner as the second last.

15. Team membership of riders at World Championships

To avoid the situation where riders can represent different countries at subsequent events, or switch during the competition season, the announcement of representation in another team than then the one fitting to the riders' nationality should be done before April 1 of the year the change applies to. The first change announced will be effective immediately; any following change will require a waiting period of two years for membership of any national team. This will bring our rules closer to FEI rules.

FIPO 10.7.4.1 will be changed into:

Riders that comply with the specific rule about eligible riders in the general part of FIPO, and which are 16 years or older in the calendar year are eligible. A rider must have the nationality of the country he is representing or have had his permanent residence in the country he is representing for at least the previous year (counted back from the first day of World Championships).

A rider can only represent one country in a specific year. Any change that is allowed according to the rules has to be announced to FEIF before April 1 in a specific year. In the event of a first change of representation, the change will be effective immediately.

For further changes, a rider shall not have taken part in competitions for the country he previously represented in the two years prior to the first competition he wishes to compete in under his new representation.

In special and exceptional circumstances, the Board of FEIF may grant exceptions for justifiable cases, with the agreement of the member associations concerned.

Note: This rule may also apply to other events with teams representing countries. For all riders representing other countries than the country of their nationality, the representation at the last relevant event will be registered as their current situation, without counting this as a first change of representation.

