

FEI EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

19 November 2019, Moscow (RUS)

PROPOSALS FOR 2020 MODIFICATIONS TO THE STATUTES

22 October 2019

Dear National Federations,

Dear Stakeholders,

Please find below a summary of the proposed changes to the FEI Statutes together with the corresponding explanations, the comments received from National Federations and Stakeholders, the FEI feedback and the final rule change proposal for approval at the FEI General Assembly on 19 November 2019 in Moscow (RUS).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Lima', is enclosed in a light gray rectangular box.

Francisco P. Lima

FEI Director of Governance & Institutional Affairs

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Articles 1.1, 31.1 iii and Definitions

Explanation for Proposed Change

Removal of the references to Reining subject to approval of the proposal that it is stated in the separate Memo [HERE](#)

Proposed Wording

"Article 1.1. To be the sole authority for all International Events in Dressage, Jumping, Eventing, Driving, Endurance, Vaulting, ~~Reining~~, Para -Equestrian and any other forms of Equestrian Sport approved by the General Assembly (the "Equestrian Disciplines");

"Article 31.1 iii. Technical Committees for:

- a) Jumping
- b) Dressage
- c) Eventing
- d) Endurance
- e) Driving
- f) Vaulting
- ~~g) Reining~~
- ~~h)g) Para -Equestrian~~
- ~~i)h) Veterinary~~
- ~~j)i) Medical"~~

"DEFINITIONS

Discipline: The term "Discipline" refers to any Equestrian Discipline approved by the General Assembly, such as Dressage, Jumping, Eventing, Driving, Endurance, Vaulting, ~~Reining~~ and Para Equestrian.

Equestrian Disciplines: International Events in Dressage, Jumping, Eventing, Driving, Endurance, Vaulting, ~~Reining~~ and Para Equestrian any other form of Equestrian Sport approved by the General Assembly."

Comments received

- 1) **BEL NF:** does not agree with the recommendation of the FEI Board to remove the Reining as a FEI discipline as of 2020.

BEL NF believes the FEI is the World governing body of the equestrian sport and its purpose is to unite and not to reject a part of the community. So instead of removing a discipline FEI should keep looking for solutions to be able to keep reining inside the FEI.

BEL NF recognises that the FEI already put a lot of efforts in trying to solve this problem, but BEL NF thinks that FEI cannot put enough energy in saving the discipline of reining.

The low number of actual reiners participating at FEI events cannot be a reason to stop trying. Even smaller disciplines have their place inside the FEI-family. It is needed to find a way to increase the number once an agreement with NRHA has been founded and the NF's with active reining-members are willing to help in this discussion.

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This beautiful discipline must be saved.

- 2) EEF:** Further efforts shall be made by the FEI to keep Reining as an FEI discipline with another attempt to continue the discussions/negotiations with NRHA. There is a responsibility towards the Reining community and the Reining horses to make the greatest effort to solve the current challenges and to give the FEI Reining Committee the opportunity to implement its development plan. For many years a great effort has been made to keep Endurance included in the FEI and it is regarded as inappropriate to exclude the discipline of Reining within the short time of a year. This position is not only supported by those EEF nations that are active in Reining but also by those that are not (yet).

It is strongly recommended to shift the development focus in Reining towards the youth, team events, amateurs, and Para-Reining in order to grow the number of participants and events in this discipline.

In case the 2019 FEI General Assembly decides to remove the discipline of Reining then further conversations shall be initiated between European NFs and the EEF to consider a potential continuation of the discipline on the European continent. In order to prepare for such scenario it is recommended to establish an EEF Reining Working Group.

- 3) FRA NF:** It is agreed that further efforts shall be made by the FEI to keep Reining as an FEI discipline. Another attempt shall be made to continue the discussions/negotiations with NRHA. There is a responsibility towards the Reining community and the Reining horses to make the greatest effort to solve the current challenges and to give the FEI Reining Committee the opportunity to implement its development plan. For many years a great effort has been made to keep Endurance included in the FEI and it is regarded as inappropriate to exclude the discipline of Reining within the short time of a year. It is strongly recommended to shift the development focus in Reining towards the youth, team events, amateurs, and Para-Reining in order to grow the number of participants and events in this discipline. In case the 2019 FEI General Assembly decides to remove the discipline of Reining then further conversations shall be initiated between European NFs and the EEF to consider a potential continuation of the discipline on the European continent. In order to prepare for such scenario it is recommended to establish an EEF Reining Working Group.
- 4) GER NF:** Prefers Reining to remain an FEI discipline, but we understand that this would only be possible when and if a new agreement with NRHA is reached.

Even after the removal of Reining as an FEI Discipline, events that are organised under the roof of the NRHA will fall under the definition of an unsanctioned event. What happens if an athlete holds an FEI licence in another discipline? We suggest that Art. 113.4 GRs will not apply for an Athlete who holds an FEI licence in another discipline. This Athlete should not be suspended in the FEI discipline.

We propose to add a clarification to the definition of an "Unsanctioned Event" stating that it only applies to equestrian events and competitions in FEI disciplines.

- 5) ITA NF:** does not agree with the recommendation of the FEI Board to remove the Reining as a FEI discipline as of 2020.

ITA NF believes that the FEI is the World governing body of the equestrian sport and therefore its purpose is to unite and not to reject a part of the community. So

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instead of removing a discipline FEI should keep looking for solutions to be able to keep Reining within the FEI.

ITA NF recognises that the FEI has already put a lot of effort in trying to solve this problem, but we think that we cannot put enough energy into saving the discipline of Reining.

The low number of actual reiners participating at FEI events cannot be a reason to stop trying. Even smaller disciplines have their place inside the FEI-family. FEI need to find a way to increase the number once an agreement with NRHA has been founded and the National Federations with active reining-members are willing to help in this discussion.

All disciplines should be given the same opportunity with equal and fair treatment. The same effort that the FEI, National Federations and equestrianism worldwide has had to adopt to save Endurance should also be applied to Reining.

The FEI Reining Committee and the entire Reining community should be given the chance to develop the many interesting opportunities that are actually on the board to develop, strengthen and increase the numbers in the discipline, especially looking at the youth, amateur riders and team competitions. The introduction of Para Reining is certainly a way forward, and we as a federation would certainly welcome this new discipline.

In Italy we have 102 certified Reining riding schools and 1,538 athletes with the Reining Riding License.

ITA NF strongly urge you to listen to the voice of the National Federations and reconsider the FEI Boards position in this matter.

- 6) NED NF:** NED NF does not agree with the recommendation of the FEI Board to remove Reining as a FEI discipline as of 2020.

NED NF believe the FEI is the World governing body of the equestrian sport and her purpose is to unite and not to reject a part of the community. So instead of removing a discipline FEI should keep looking for solutions to be able to keep reining inside the FEI.

NED NF also want to attract boys and men to equestrian sport. The discipline of Reining is a tough and spectacular sport that attract lots of male sporters. At the same time it is very attractive towards the very involved and cheering spectators.

The low number of actual reiners participating at FEI events cannot be a reason to stop trying. Even smaller disciplines have their place inside the FEI-family. FEI need to find a way to increase the number once an agreement with NRHA has been founded and the NF's with active reining-members are willing to help in this discussion.

This attractive discipline must be saved. The FEI needs to create a feasible solution.

- 7) SUI NF:** Strongly support any efforts to keep Reining as an FEI discipline as possible. Another try to find an agreement with NRHA is welcomed and if any assistance or support is needed they are happy to help. For many years efforts have been made to keep Endurance as an FEI discipline and it would be inappropriate to remove Reining as a discipline within this short time.

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FEI feedback

The modification to this Articles will be subject to the final decision taken by the FEI General Assembly 2019 on the future of Reining.

Proposed Final Wording

Subject to the final decision taken by the FEI General Assembly 2019 on the future of Reining.

Article 10 and 19.1 iii

Explanation for Proposed Change

Make the Chairs of Vaulting, Para Equestrian Medical Committees full members of the Board.

The Board underlined the importance of these 3 Committees within the FEI structure, recognised their work done in the past years and showed the Board's respect and appreciation for them.

Proposed Wording

"Article 10

xxi. c) The Chairs of the Technical Committees for Veterinary, Dressage, Jumping, Eventing, Driving, and Endurance, Vaulting, Para Equestrian and Medical;

Article 19.1

iii. The Chairs of the Technical Committees for Dressage, Jumping, Eventing, Driving, Endurance, ~~and~~ Veterinary, Vaulting, Para Equestrian and Medical (Technical Chairs);"

Comments received

- 1) NED NF:** supports the proposal to make the Chairs of Vaulting, Para Equestrian Medical Committees full members of the FEI-Board.

FEI feedback

Based on the feedback received the FEI maintains this rule proposal.

Proposed Final Wording

Initial proposal is maintained.

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New Article 20.4

Explanation for Proposed Change

The existing system for rule changes (i.e. consultation with NFs and stakeholders, and voting through the General Assembly) takes approximately 12 months to complete.

In order to be able to intervene in protecting the welfare of the Horse and the safety of the Athlete the FEI is proposing to give the right to the Board to approve rules changes that are prerogative of the General Assembly. The National Federations shall keep the right of disapproval.

Proposed Wording

"In addition to the foregoing, in order to ensure the safety of the Athlete and/or the welfare of the Horse the Board may, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of votes cast, pass Resolutions which are normally the prerogatives of the General Assembly. In such cases, the National Federations shall be notified promptly of these measures. If a majority of the National Federations eligible to vote, responding within thirty (30) days of the date of the notice, signifies its disapproval, the measure shall be rescinded if possible."

Comments received

- 1) **ARG NF:** Does not agree with this new rule. Even if the majority of NFs respond by disagreeing with a rule amendment, the FEI Board may suggest that it is not possible to rescind the measure (rule)
- 2) **AUS NF:** This rule change should be rejected because of the implications to the rule making process. The vast majority of rules can be construed as being related to horse welfare. While AUS NF 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.
- 3) **BRA NF:** Believes that rule changes should go through the GA or if taken during the year have the majority of votes of the National Federations.
- 4) **BRN NF:** Recommends that the proposed addition of Art. 20.4 of the FEI Statutes is rejected. BRN NF believes that consultation with National Federations and stakeholders, and voting through the General Assembly is the only way to approve the emergency welfare rule proposals.
- 5) **GBR NF:** Remove the words "if possible" from rescinded. The FEI board should be able to bring in emergency measures. It is similar to the power that the EGB board have to bring in welfare measures. There is a risk of knee jerk reactions which have not been properly debated and have unintended consequences. Allowing the 30 days for NFs to comment before the rule comes in would be preferred.
- 6) **CAN NF:** Understands that the FEI Board can approve extraordinary changes, but they can be overturned by a 2/3 objection of the National Federations. If there are obstacles preventing valid FEI rule changes, dealing with horse welfare issues, from being implemented, then we are in favour of this change.

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- 7) **GER NF:** This sounds like a good proposal. For clarification purposes: is this due to the proposed 4-years rhythm and does only the FEI Board have the authority to do changes during these 4 years? If so, we propose to leave the right and obligation with NFs to decide on such changes also during these 4 years (as long as it is not a time critical emergency).
- 8) **KSA NF:** This rule change should be rejected. The new Article poses a risk as the FEI Board can control any discipline without referring back to the floor of the General Assembly. Even if the majority of NFs respond by disagreeing with a rule amendment, the FEI Board may suggest that it is 'not possible to rescind the measure (rule)'.
- 9) **LBA NF:** This rule change should be rejected. The new Article poses a risk as the FEI Board can control any discipline without referring back to the floor of the General Assembly. Even if the majority of NFs respond by disagreeing with a rule amendment, the FEI Board may suggest that it is 'not possible to rescind the measure (rule)'.
- 10) **LBN NF:** This rule change should be rejected. The new Article poses a risk as the FEI Board can control any discipline without referring back to the floor of the General Assembly. Even if the majority of NFs respond by disagreeing with a rule amendment, the FEI Board may suggest that it is 'not possible to rescind the measure (rule)'.
- 11) **NAM NF:** Agree to this amendment.
- 12) **NZL NF:** Whilst we applaud the intent to speed up the introduction of rules that improve the safety or welfare of horses and riders, the last 2 words "if possible" are concerning and suggest that rules that are deeply unpopular with the NFs may not be rescinded. This places too much power in the hands of the Board. We would not support this proposal.
- 13) **OMA NF:** The rule change is unacceptable and rejected because even majority of NFs disagreeing with rule, The FEI board may suggest it is not possible to revoke the measure rule.
- 14) **RSA NF:** Disagree.
- 15) **RUS NF:** This rule change should be rejected.
- 16) **SLO NF:** We recommend that General Assembly stays main body to take decisions.
- 17) **SUD NF:** This rule change should be rejected. The new Article poses a risk as the FEI Board can control any discipline without referring back to the floor of the General Assembly. Even if the majority of NFs respond by disagreeing with a rule amendment, the FEI Board may suggest that it is 'not possible to rescind the measure (rule)'.
- 18) **UAE NF:** This rule change should be rejected. The new Article poses a risk as the FEI Board can control any discipline without referring back to the floor of the General Assembly. Even if the majority of NFs respond by disagreeing with a rule

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amendment, the FEI Board may suggest that it is 'not possible to rescind the measure (rule)'. 19) USA NF: Believes that this needs further discussion during the GA in order to ensure Rule proposals are properly considered, discussed and all consequence identified and addressed prior to approval. A proposal for discussion: <i>"In addition to the foregoing, in order to ensure the safety of the Athlete and/or the welfare of the Horse the Board may, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of votes cast, pass Resolutions which are normally the prerogatives of the General Assembly. In such cases, the National Federations shall be notified promptly of these measures. If a <u>majority one eighth (1/8th)</u> of the National Federations eligible to vote, responding within thirty (30) days of the date of the notice, signifies its disapproval, the measure shall be rescinded <u>if possible</u>."</i>
FEI feedback
Based on the feedback received this rule proposal is withdrawn.
Proposed Final Wording
N/A

New Article 51.2
Explanation for Proposed Change
If the proposal to make the Chairs of Vaulting, Para Equestrian and Medical Committees full members of the Board is approved by the General Assembly 2019, those 3 new positions will be filled as per an election process in 2020 for election by the General Assembly 2020. As the Chairs of Vaulting and Medical Committees are outgoing in 2019, in order to keep these Committees workable, it is proposed that the Board appoints the Chair of those 2 Committees during the General Assembly week 2019 for a period of 1 year.
Proposed Wording
<u>"For the Term 2019-2020, the Board shall appoint the Chairs of the Vaulting and the Medical Committees during the FEI Board meeting immediately after the General Assembly 2019.</u> <u>The current Term of the Chair of Para Equestrian remains unchanged.</u> <u>For the Terms 2020-2024, the Chairs of Vaulting, Para Equestrian and Medical Committees shall be elected by the General Assembly in 2020 according to the process set out in Article 24 and Annex I of the FEI Statutes"</u>
Comments received
None
FEI feedback
N/A
Proposed Final Wording
Initial proposal is maintained.

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Article 51.3

Explanation for Proposed Change

Given the increase number of cases coming before the FEI Tribunal, the Board agreed (as recommended by the Nominations Committee) to add 2 more positions in the FEI Tribunal to be elected at the General Assembly 2019 for a maximum of 9 members in total (including the Chair).

This approval does not require a statutory modification as Article 38.6 establish that the FEI Tribunal shall be composed of a Chair and a minimum of 6 other members.

When approving this recommendation the Board requested the Terms of the Members to be staggered in order to guarantee continuity of the Tribunal.

Proposed Wording

"At the General Assembly 2019 a Chair and 7 Members of the FEI Tribunal shall be elected as follows:

- Chair for the Term 2019-2023
- 3 Members for the Term 2019-2023
- 2 Members for the Term 2019-2022
- 2 Member for the Term 2019-2021

A draw shall be held during the General Assembly 2019 to allocate the relevant Terms."

Comments received

- 1) **JPN NF:** disagree to add two positions in the FEI Tribunal. This is not the matter of regulations and we also agree for more positions in Tribunal related to the fact of increasing number of cases. We disagree, because this rule was proposed after this official notice of open positions 2019. We propose this rule to be implemented from 2020 election.

FEI feedback

None

Proposed Final Wording

Initial proposal is maintained.