

## **I.5 Rules for Conduct of ECAHO Sport Competitions**

### **I.5.1 Organizers**

Officials, judges, participants, and riders will unconditionally submit themselves and their accompanying persons to the "Rules and Regulations of ECAHO Sport Competitions". These Rules will be interpreted, when necessary, under the provisions of the laws of Switzerland. Event organizers are not permitted to introduce rules which are in conflict with the "Rules and Regulations of ECAHO Sport Competitions".

### **I.5.2 Show Organizers, Judges and Riders**

- a. The organizer will pay any reasonable travelling and accommodation expenses for appointed Judges and any applicable fee as determined by the NF/FEI and/or Western Riding Organization. A short agreement between Judge and organizer in written form is recommended.
- b. Judges, Event coordinator, Stewards, Ringmasters and respective probationers, hereafter referred to as 'Official(s)'  
No Judge is allowed to judge a class in which a horse is subject of a conflict of interest. Such Judge must stand down for the whole class/finals. Officials invited to officiate at ECAHO affiliated shows agree to do so with integrity and honesty and to carry out their duties solely with the objects of ECAHO and the welfare of the horses in mind. Officials appointed at a show will not knowingly officiate in a class in which horses are entered concerning which there may be an actual or apparent conflict of interest.
- c. No member of the organizing committee may judge. No appointed Judge may ride, drive or handle an entered horse, or pursue any other activity not consistent with his duties at the show in which he is officiating.
- d. The show organizer reserves the right to refuse any entry but must give the reason for refusal. The organizer is personally responsible for compliance with these rules and with ECAHO Sport Commission instructions given for his level of contest.
- e. ECAHO Sport Commission "Rules for Affiliation of ECAHO Sport Competitions" are binding on organizers and exhibitors.
- f. Exhibitors will declare on the entry form any actual or apparent conflict of interest with any of the officials invited for the show. Any exhibitor not declaring an existing conflict of interest, of which he is aware, will forfeit all entry fees and will be prevented from showing the horse.
- g. Organizers will not accept any entries for which any actual or apparent conflict of interest with one of the appointed officials has been indicated by the exhibitor, unless a reserve official is available.
- h. Officials will not visit exhibitors' premises or accept exhibitors' hospitality during a 30 day period before or during the show concerned.
- i. Officials will not accept benefits or gifts that could bring into question the Official's integrity or honesty.
- j. Any actual or apparent conflict of interest that arises before or during the show shall be immediately reported to the Show Office & Event coordinator (ECo). The ECo shall consult all parties involved and use all sources to their disposal to decide as necessary. The ECo must include all information in their report and forward to ECAHO after the show. At no time may the organizer take any decision that is in conflict with the jurisdiction of ECAHO and its' rules and regulations.
- k. Any actual or apparent conflict of interest that arises after the show shall be reported immediately to ECAHO for consideration.
- l. An actual or apparent conflict of interest may occur if a horse is exhibited that:
  - m. Is being trained or handled by a member of the official's family
    - has been bought or sold by an official either as owner or agent
    - has been bred or is owned in whole or part by the official or by a member of the official's family, or business partner in an Arab horse business venture
    - has been leased by the official, at any time
    - has been bred by or is the property of a breeding organization in which the official is or was an employee
    - has been regularly trained, examined or treated by the official in a professional capacity
    - is the subject of an on-going negotiation to buy or lease, or a provisional purchase condition to which the official is a party.
  - n. An actual or apparent conflict of interest may further occur, amongst others, if the Official, irrespective of the payment or receipt of a remuneration or any other consideration, during the period of one year (365 days) before a show at which the Official officiates:
    - has entered into any business relationship with an exhibitor at that show,

- Has received, whilst being involved with the organization of any show or event, sponsorship from an exhibitor at that show or event.  
This does not apply to those events organized on behalf of a National Association which is a Full Member of ECAHO, as long as the Official has no financial benefit from the sponsorship.
  - has performed consulting for an exhibitor at that show,
  - has purchased or sold a horse from or to an exhibitor at that show,
  - was involved with the breeding of a horse of an exhibitor at that show,
  - was involved in similar activities with an exhibitor at that show.
  - is employed in any way by the Show organizers.
  - In case of doubt, the Eco & Event manager decision will prevail.
  - Any Official must decline to officiate if they consider themselves to have a conflict of interests concerning a horse, its' Rider/Driver/Handler or its' owner(s).
- o. If, during the show a conflict of interests of which the exhibitor was un-aware becomes apparent, the following options are available:  
if the official with the conflict of interests is a judge:
- the judge will suspend his/her duties for the duration of the class and the championship where the conflict exists
  - a published reserve judge or another judge from the judges' panel may be used for the class and the championship where the conflict exists
  - if the above mentioned (i) is not applicable and if no reserve judge is available or there are no more members of the judges' panel, the total points in the class will be multiplied by the factor of planned number of judges divided by the actual number of judges, to calculate a comparable score in case of ties
- p. In the show ring, all communication between judges and handlers prior to the presentation of prizes will be through the Ringmaster.
- q. Judges may withhold any award if in their opinion the exhibit does not merit such an award.
- r. Judges may exclude any horse that is lame or ill. Other rights of Sport Judges follow NF/FEI or Western Riding Rules.
- s. The Liberty/Halter Class/Type & Confirmation Judges may refuse to judge a competitor who is not neatly dressed.
- t. The organizer has to provide the "Rules and Regulations for ECAHO Sport Competitions" and the "Appendices" at the disposition of the competitors.

### **I.5.3 Enforcement**

Only competitors at the event may lodge a complaint alleging infringement of these rules. Such complaint is to be made in writing within 1 hour of the alleged infringement occurring. A deposit of CHF 80.- (or equivalent) will be lodged with the NF/FEI steward of warm up or show office manager and may be retained if the complaint is considered frivolous at the discretion of the event appealing committee (1 of the judges, 1 from the organization, 1 from involved riders). The decision has to be done during the show on the day of protest. Appeal can be sent to the ECAHO Sport Commission within one week after the event. Any dope tests are following the FEI Veterinary Rules.

### **I.5.4 Disguising of horses**

- a. No alteration of the basic colour of the skin, coat or hooves is permitted. Hoof paints, coat dyes and cosmetic operations including skin grafts are forbidden.
- b. Artificial methods of dilating the eyes or affecting the natural action of the horse or otherwise influencing its action or behaviour by oxygenating the bloodstream or by the use of weights or artificially weighted shoes, or by electrical or chemical treatment of any kind at any time before or during the performance are forbidden. Burns, cuts or other marks on the body of any exhibit in such places or positions as to indicate prohibited methods have been used, will be regarded by NF Steward, Judges as full and adequate grounds for exclusion of any exhibit from competition.
- c. Horses may be fully or partly body clipped, subject to eyelashes being left uncut, hair inside the ears left unshaved and tactile hair left intact around the nose, muzzle and the eyes.
- d. No equipment intended to alter the natural appearance of the horse is permitted in the stables, including neck sweats, neck collars, tail racks, hobbles or weights. Exhibitors using such equipment on the showground will be suspended by the ground jury for the period of the show.

### **I.5.5 Cruelty**

Excessive whipping, use of electric shock devices or infliction of pain by any means is forbidden in all parts of the showground, or stable areas, at all times. Blood on mouth or flanks will result in an elimination of the horse & rider.

### **I.5.6 Misuse of drugs**

1. The administration of any substance not a normal nutrient (including ginger and similar irritants), whether intentionally or unintentionally which may affect the performance, temperament or soundness of an exhibit is forbidden. Such forbidden substances are listed in FEI Veterinary Regulations, an up-to-date copy of which will be maintained by the ECAHO Sport Commission.
2. The NF/FEI or ECAHO Sport commission can order Doping Test. FEI veterinarian has to take these samples and has to send them to FEI approved official Lab. Result to ECAHO Sport Commission and Owner/rider.