

# **British Equestrian Federation**

# **Rule Book**

&

Disciplinary and Anti-Doping Rules

*20<sup>th</sup> Revision 1 January 2023*

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## Introduction

1. The Board of the British Equestrian Federation (BEF) resolved at its meeting on 13 January 2000 to implement a comprehensive procedure for the handling of disciplinary and doping control procedures covering horses, riders and their connections. Moreover, it was resolved that the BEF would, from the date these Rules were formally adopted by the Board on 23 November 2000, take responsibility for handling and making disciplinary decisions for all horses, ponies, riders and connections on behalf of the members of the Federation at all international Events whether they are staged in the United Kingdom or outside it and to act as an Appeal body on behalf of BEF Members, subject to the rules and procedures set out in this Rule Book. World Class Performance Riders and their connections will also be subject to these rules, when competing in national competitions.
2. These Rules are established so that Riders and Officials, may participate in international competitions as representatives of the United Kingdom and the BEF in a fair environment while continuing to be subject to the rules of the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI), and the policies, and where relevant, the conditions of grants and services, of the International Olympic Commission (IOC), the International Paralympic Commission (IPC), British Olympic Association (BOA), British Paralympic Association (BPA) and the Sports Councils of the United Kingdom. The Rules apply whether or not individuals are in receipt of funding from any Government or other sponsoring body.
3. These Rules can never cover every eventuality. Matters, which cannot be solved by interpreting the rules to the letter, should be resolved by following as nearly as possible the spirit of the text to obtain the solution, which is fairest to all participants.
4. These Rules supersede all previous BEF Rules as from the publication date of this Revision. These Rules must be read in conjunction with the rules of the IOC, IPC, FEI, BOA and BPA.

## Definitions

5. Except where the context otherwise requires, or an alternative definition is provided in a section of these Rules, the following definitions shall apply:

**Appeal:** An appeal referred to the BEF Stewards pursuant to rule 11.3.

**BEF Member:** Members, Associations, Societies or Clubs of the British Equestrian Federation.

The **Board:** The Board of Directors of the BEF appointed according to the Articles of Association.

**Chief Executive:** The Chief Executive of the BEF.

**Event:** Any international show, competition or collection of competitions including championships and games staged under the rules of the FEI.

**FEI:** As defined in the FEI General Regulations.

**Horse:** A horse or pony, which is registered with any BEF Member or for which an international passport has been issued or is in the process of being issued.

The **Judicial Panel:** The Chair of the Judicial Panel and legally qualified members of the Judicial Panel appointed by the BEF Board to sit on the BEF Hearing Body to consider matters under the BEF Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Rules, Safeguarding Case Management Process, the National Para Equestrian Classification Rules or any other disciplinary or Appeal matter.

**Official:** Any FEI panel Officials and other managers, trainers, chefs, medical or veterinary practitioners or individuals appointed by BEF or any of its member bodies.

**Organising Committee:** Any organisation, group, society or body which is recognised by an international federation of the FEI or Member of the BEF and responsible for the management of any Event.

**Participants:** Any Rider, who is registered with the FEI to compete internationally under the rules of the FEI, or in the event of an Appeal, a member of one of the BEF Members. Failure to renew registration or an administrative error in its completion does not constitute failure under this definition.

**References in this Agreement to:** The masculine gender shall include the feminine and vice versa, and neuter. The singular shall include the plural and vice versa.

**Rider:** Any rider, driver, vaulter or competitor as an individual or part of a team.

The **Stewards:** The officers appointed by the BEF Board to consider complaints of misconduct or to hear an Appeal referred by a BEF Member.

The **Steward General:** The officer appointed by the BEF to fulfil the responsibilities for this Official in Great Britain under the rules set by the FEI.

**Testing Authorities:** Any organisations with responsibility for the testing of riders and/or horses, as defined above, examples of which are: IOC, IPC, FEI, UKAD, the BEF and BEF members.

The FEI definitions used in the FEI General Regulations are the same in these rules and should be used for clarification where necessary.

## **Codes**

6. All codes of conduct, protocols and policies issued by the IOC, IPC, FEI, BOA, BPA and UK Sport from time to time, are hereby adopted by BEF for the purposes of this Rule Book unless otherwise stated within these Rules. In particular, the following codes of conduct, ethics and doping control procedures are reproduced as Annexes to these rules:

Annex A	The Welfare of the Horse
Annex B	Safeguarding Policies and Procedures
Annex C	Equality Policy
Annex D	Privacy Policy
Annex E	Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication
Annex F	UKAD Anti-Doping Rules for Human Athletes
Annex G	Appeals
Annex H	Selection Appeal Rules
Annex H2	Olympic and Paralympic Selection Appeal Rules

Participants are deemed to have notice of all such codes of conduct and are obliged to conduct themselves in accordance with them at all times.

## **Registration**

7. A Rider must before taking part in any international Event in accordance with FEI rules
- i) be registered with the FEI; and
  - ii) be a full member of a BEF Member which is engaged in an FEI sporting discipline and accordingly for these purposes be treated as registered with the BEF.

## **Sponsorship Agreements**

8. Sponsorship agreements may provide Riders with financial assistance for the preparation for and participation in Events. Such agreements must not contravene these rules, or those rules or bye-laws of the FEI, IOC, IPC, BOA, BPA, UK Sport or any Testing Authority, the provisions of any Team GBR or Team GB agreement.

## Conduct and Discipline

### Agreement to be bound by the Rules

9.1 All Participants, by their application for registration with the FEI or acceptance of appointment to the BEF, FEI or any Testing Authority as an Official, agree to be bound by:

- a) the BEF Articles of Association and all rules, regulations and bye-laws made thereunder; and
- b) the Statutes, Regulations and Rules of the FEI, including the Equine Anti-Doping and Medication Control Rules which take into account the principles of the World Anti-Doping Code; and

have agreed that the decisions of the Board, BEF Hearing Body, Stewards and other competent authorities of the BEF given in accordance therewith shall be binding upon them.

9.2 All Participants are required to contribute to a safe sporting environment and respectful culture which is accepting of individual differences and to behave accordingly.

9.3 It is the responsibility of all Participants to ensure that they are aware of and familiar with these Rules, and all Participants competing under these Rules shall be deemed to have knowledge of these Rules as amended from time to time.

### Conduct of Participants

10. No Participant shall:

- a) Contravene any rule set by their BEF Member, Society or Club, the BEF, the FEI, BOA, BPA, Testing Authority, the IOC, IPC or UK Sport.
- b) Conduct themselves at an Event in a manner, which is offensive to the public.
- c) Conduct themselves in a manner which fails to respect the rights, dignity and worth of all people involved in equestrian sport (including all participants, officials and administrators) regardless of gender, ability, sexual orientation, age, cultural background or religion.
- d) Engage in any form of harassment, bullying, abuse, violence, intimidation or vilification of others, including via the use of social media.
- e) Argue at an Event with an Official or use abusive or threatening language or behave with incivility or contempt towards an Official.
- f) Undertake any actions designed to influence the result of a competition in a manner contrary to sporting ethics.

- g) Ill-treat in any way a horse at an Event whether inside or outside the competition area.
- h) Misuse or use excessively a whip or spur.
- i) Deliberately use the action of the bit as a means of punishment and/or misuse any item of saddlery in a manner likely to cause pain or discomfort to the horse or pony.
- j) Allow a horse in the collecting ring or anywhere on or in the vicinity of the Event to:-
  - (i) Be rapped
  - (ii) Jump a pole or obstacle which is held by hand
  - (iii) Jump an oxer which has the back element lower than the top pole of the front element
  - (iv) Jump a fence in the wrong direction.
- k) Participate in an International Event or National Event if that Athlete and/or Horse has participated, in the six (6) months prior to the first day of the International Event or National Event in question, in an Unsanctioned Event as defined in Article 113 of the FEI's General Regulations. Please also refer to Appendix J of the General Regulations for the rationale for the Unsanctioned Event Provisions.
- l) Allow, knowingly or otherwise, a horse for which they are the person responsible to compete in any competition under the influence of a prohibited substance as defined at **Annex E**. The person responsible shall be in breach of this rule if the analysis of a sample taken from the said horse shows the presence in its body fluids of any substance, which is either a prohibited substance or one of its metabolites or markers.
- m) Unreasonably refuse to allow a horse which has competed or is about to compete in a competition at an Event to undergo any properly authorised test or examination if requested to do so by an officer of the Testing Authorities or the Organising Committee.
- n) Have present in their bodily specimens any prohibited substance or its metabolites or markers. A Participant shall be in breach of this rule if the analysis of a sample taken from them shows the presence in their body fluids of any quantity of any substance which is a prohibited substance or one of its metabolites, or of a specified amount of an endogenous substance subject to quantitative analysis. Prohibited and restricted substances are set out in the World Anti Doping Code Prohibited List which can be found on-line at <http://inside.fei.org/fei/cleansport/humans>
- o) Refuse to give a sample of their body fluids for the purpose of control of prohibited substances.



- p) Refuse to cooperate fully with any anti-doping investigations or proceedings, whether conducted by UK Anti-Doping or any other competent body. Failure to do so without acceptable justification may be treated as misconduct and may be sanctioned accordingly.
  - q) Conduct themselves in such a manner that they have or may have committed or has or may have been party or privy to any breach of any provisions of the Memorandum and Articles of the BEF or of any rule, regulation or bye-law of the BEF, FEI, or the BEF Member Association, Society or Club, the IOC, IPC or UK Sport, or any of the Testing Authorities.
  - r) Conduct themselves in a manner which is detrimental to the character and/or prejudicial to the interests of the BEF.
  - s) Unreasonably fail or refuse to assist the Stewards, the Steward General or his officers, Officials of the Testing Authorities, the Chief Executive or Performance Director of the BEF in their investigations of complaints of misconduct by members of the Federation.
  - t) Make, either orally or in writing, to an officer of the BEF or Testing Authorities or of an Event, a statement on any matter covered by the rules, which they do not or could not reasonably believe to be true.
  - u) Compete and/or transport horses to an Event without the horse being validly registered with the FEI and, where the Event so requires, a valid FEI Recognition Card, equine passport, and/or travel documents.
  - v) Compete at an Event for which the horse and rider are not fully qualified, fit or eligible.
  - w) Having indicated their availability for selection for an official British national team, unreasonably fail or refuse to compete in such team if selected.
  - x) Exercise any of the rights or privileges of participation in the BEF while suspended from the BEF, nor assist, represent or act on behalf of any other member of the BEFs members at an Event staged under the rules of the FEI or any foreign national federation while suspended from all rights and privileges of participation.
- 10.2 In the event that a Participant who is subject to the BEF's jurisdiction commits an act of misconduct that relates to anti-doping but does not amount to a violation of the UK Anti-Doping Rules or the BEF's Equine Anti-doping and Controlled Medication Rules, the BEF may bring disciplinary proceedings against that person for such misconduct under and they may be sanctioned accordingly.
- 10.3 A Participant shall be in breach of this Rule in the event that any person who assists, represents or acts on behalf of or in the employment of such

Participant during the course of an Event conducts themselves in such a manner that were they a Participant of the BEF they would themselves be in breach of any of the provisions of these Rules.

## **The Stewards**

- 11.1 The Stewards of the BEF are nominated by the members of the BEF and appointed by the Board to consider complaints of misconduct by Testing Authorities, Organising Committees or members of the public at Events and if necessary to impose appropriate penalties. In this context misconduct includes the failure to observe any provision of the Articles of the BEF or of any rule, regulation or bye-law (including these Rules) made by the Board or any other member association or competent authority. Participants are also subject to such provisions when taking part in any Event affiliated to a foreign national federation or to the FEI.
- 11.2 Stewards may be appointed by the Board for a period of up to 3 years. At the expiry of the initial appointment the Board may appoint a Steward for further periods of up to 3 years at a time at the Board's discretion.
- 11.3 The Stewards may also act as an appeal body for anyone wishing to appeal to the BEF against any decision taken by one of the BEF member bodies or their selectors, committees, World Class programme administrators or selectors, Chfs de Mission or Team Managers.
- 11.4 The procedure for dealing with Appeals to the BEF is set out in Appendices G and H to these Rules.

## **Judicial Panel**

- 12.1 The Board has established a Judicial Panel from which individuals shall be drawn to sit on Hearing Bodies established to adjudicate on specific regulatory and disciplinary matters. These include:
  - a) National Anti-Doping hearings
  - b) Safeguarding hearings
  - c) Disciplinary hearings
  - d) Appeal hearings
- 12.2 The Judicial Panel members are appointed by the Board and consist of a Judicial Panel Chair, Legally Qualified Chairs and Hearing Body Panel Members.
- 12.3 The Judicial Panel Chair shall be responsible for
  - 12.3.1 Leading and representing the BEF Hearing Body in official matters.
  - 12.3.2 Managing the caseload of the Judicial Panel and assigning (or reassigning) cases to Hearing Body members, according to the specific needs of the case.

12.3.3 Monitoring the performance and conduct of the Judicial Panel members and BEF Stewards, investigating (or assist in the investigation of) complaints made against them.

12.3 Judicial Panel members will be appointed for an initial term of 3 years and may be eligible for a further term of three years.

12.4 All Judicial Panel members must be independent and no Judicial Panel member or their immediate family members may:

- hold any office or perform an official function in or for the BEF or BEF Member;
- have any material business relationship with the BEF or with BEF Member during their term of office and for four years prior to their initial appointment to office.

### **Complaints of Misconduct**

13. Any person wishing to make a complaint of misconduct by a Participant must do so in writing to the Chief Executive. If after preliminary investigation the Chief Executive considers that a prima facie case of misconduct exists which cannot be dealt with summarily under Rule 18, they will refer it to the Stewards, subject to the FEI or other Testing Authority electing not to take disciplinary action. When the Chief Executive receives a complaint of an alleged breach of conduct concerning prohibited substances, as defined under Rule 10 (h) they may refer the complaint to the BEFAR Programme Manager or the BEFAR Hearing Body. All complaints relating to Rule 10(j) will be referred to UKAD and the National Anti-Doping Panel.

### **Notice of Complaint**

14. Notice of the time and place of the Stewards meeting will be sent to the Participant against whom a complaint has been made at least 21 days before the date of such meeting, together with details of the nature of the complaint and the names of any witnesses. Where three weeks' notice has not been possible the Stewards may abridge the time period in appropriate circumstances.

### **Rights of Participants at Stewards Meetings**

15.1 A Participant whose conduct is referred to the Stewards may appear in person to answer the complaint against them at the Stewards meeting and may call and examine witnesses. In the alternative, at the discretion of the Stewards, a Participant may submit written evidence and statements for consideration in their absence. If a Participant fails or elects not to appear before the Stewards the Stewards may reach a decision and impose a penalty in their absence.

15.2 A Participant shall, if they so desire, be represented by a third party before the Stewards and that representation may be a legal representative. A Participant

under the age of 16 must always be accompanied by a parent, guardian or other responsible adult.

- 15.3 Whether or not a Participant is legally represented the BEF may be legally represented.

### **Powers of the Stewards to Impose Penalties**

16. If after considering all the evidence the Stewards decide that the complaint of misconduct is sustained they may impose any one or more of the penalties shown below, although they will be guided by the levels of penalty imposed by the FEI. The Stewards shall give reasons for their decision to the Participant. These penalties may be in addition to any disciplinary process of the BEF Member or of the FEI, IOC, IPC, BOA or BPA. The Stewards' powers under these rules are:
- a) That such Participant be reprimanded and cautioned as to their future conduct.
  - b) That such Participant be suspended from all or any of the rights and privileges of participation for a period not exceeding 2 years.
  - c) That any horse belonging to and/or being ridden by such Participant at the time of the misconduct be debarred from competing in any Event affiliated to the BEF or any other National Federation or to the FEI for a period not exceeding 12 months.
  - d) That such Participant pay a fine, and/or costs of bringing the case, of such sum as the Stewards shall in their absolute discretion direct giving due regard to the gravity of the misconduct.
  - e) That such Participant refund any Sports Council lottery or exchequer funding, up to a maximum of one year's gross payments, made directly to them and/or be disqualified for a period of up to one year from further payments.

### **Immediate Suspension**

- 17 A Participant may be summarily suspended from all rights and privileges of participation at Events following conviction in a British Court of Law of any equestrian related offence, pending a full investigation by the Stewards at an enquiry called under the terms of Rule 12. Such suspension is to be approved by three members of the Stewards panel, in writing, and may take effect from the date of conviction, or such date as the Stewards shall decide and shall remain in force at the Stewards' absolute discretion until a full hearing under Rule 12 and shall notify the Participant forthwith.

## **Notice of Findings, Penalties and Appeals**

- 18.1 The Chief Executive will, within seven days of the Stewards' decision, notify the complainant and the Participant in writing of the findings of the Stewards and of any penalties imposed.
- 18.2 Any Participant whose conduct has been referred to the Stewards of the BEF under Rule 12 above and who is dissatisfied with the Stewards' decision may, within 28 days of the decision, appeal to Sport Resolutions UK (SR). Terms of reference for SR can be obtained from the offices of BEF upon request.
- 18.3 Notice of the findings of the Stewards will not be published until the expiry of the 28-day appeal period, and then only at the discretion of either the Chief Executive or Stewards as appropriate.

## **Summary Powers of the Chief Executive**

- 19.1 The Chief Executive may, where they consider that a Participant is in breach of these Rules but that the breach is of a minor nature:-
- (i) Issue a formal written warning as to the Participant's further conduct which shall include an outline of the circumstances of the case and the reason for the warning.
  - (ii) Call the Participant for interview, at the offices of the BEF, by either the BEF Chief Executive, in the less serious of the minor cases, or otherwise the Chair of the Board. In such cases the appropriate BEF Member shall have been informed of the request. A record of the circumstances of the case and an outline of the interview will be kept and copied to his host sport. A copy of the record will be sent to the Participant within 7 days of the interview. If appropriate, having heard the Participant's explanation the Chief Executive or the Chair may issue a formal warning of the Participant's future conduct which shall include an outline of the circumstances of the case and the reason for the warning.

In either case any written warnings may be referred to the Stewards when considering the penalty to be imposed for a further breach of the Rules.

- 19.2 Where any Participant objects in writing to the complaint being dealt with under this Rule the Chief Executive shall refer the matter to the Stewards for the matter to be dealt with by way of a hearing.

## **Summary Powers of a Team Manager**

20. The Chef de Mission, Performance Director or Performance Manager or their duly authorised deputy whilst accompanying Participants on a course of training or on a tour or team visit (whether or not such course of training or tour or team visit takes place in Great Britain) shall have power in their absolute discretion to regulate, control and/or adjudicate upon the conduct of Riders on such course of training, tour or team visit and shall have the power to direct that a

Participant shall be suspended from competing or taking part in such course of training or in any competition taking place on such tour or team visit where the Participant's conduct amounts to a breach of any part of Rule 10, in which event a formal complaint shall be made to the Chief Executive pursuant to Rule 12 about the Participant's conduct.

### **Indebtedness to the Federation**

21. Any Participant who fails to discharge any indebtedness to the BEF or FEI or Member of the BEF may receive notification from the Chief Executive that such or any part of such indebtedness must be paid within 30 days. If the debt remains unpaid the Participant's registration with the FEI may be revoked by the Chief Executive with the written agreement of an officer of the BEF Member. A Participant will be deemed responsible for any debts incurred by or on their behalf as a Participant. In the Event of a dispute as to the debt notified to the Chief Executive in writing the matter shall be referred to the Stewards before any suspension is imposed.

### **Indebtedness to an Event**

22. If an Organising Committee makes a written complaint under Rule 12 of the failure of a Participant to make payment for goods or services provided or they make payment to an Event in respect of entry fees, stabling or accommodation by cheque or other instrument which is subsequently dishonoured, the Chief Executive may, on investigating the circumstances, suspend the Participant's registration with the FEI until payment is made. On receipt of a complaint the Chief Executive shall notify the said Participant of their indebtedness in writing. Should the Participant concerned dispute the facts of their indebtedness and the Chief Executive fails to resolve the matter to the satisfaction of those concerned, the matter shall be referred to the Stewards.

### **Publication of Findings and Penalties**

23. The Stewards, Chief Executive, Chef de Mission, Performance Director or Performance Manager may at their absolute discretion publish any disciplinary decision, ruling or direction made concerning any person or matter in such manner as they shall think fit whether in the public press circulating throughout or in any part of the United Kingdom, or abroad, and/or on television or sound broadcasting, and/or to and through any news or broadcasting agency or agent, or otherwise and every Participant shall be deemed to have consented thereto.

### **The Steward General**

24. The Steward General and their appointed officers are responsible to the Chief Executive on behalf of the Board. Their duties are to attend Events in order to observe and regulate the conduct of Participants for the FEI. They may, for an Event staged in the UK, other than in Northern Ireland, report a complaint about a BEF Participant, but only with the written agreement of the Ground Jury who must indicate they have not taken action and will not be reporting the Participant to the FEI. The Chief Executive will investigate the complaint under the procedures set out in these rules.

## **Suspensions**

- 25.1 In the event that a Participant is suspended from competition or any rights and privileges by the BEF or any Testing Authority they will automatically be suspended from all rights and privileges of membership of all BEF Members for the same period of time.
- 25.2 Any competitor suspended by any discipline or the FEI for medical or any other reason is automatically suspended and prohibited from competing in any other discipline on the basis of the same facts giving rise to the original sanction.
- 25.3 Any competitor sanctioned by any discipline or the FEI may also be sanctioned by any other discipline on the basis of the same facts giving rise to the original sanction.
- 25.4 For the purposes of Article 37.3 of the FEI Statutes and for those purposes only all penalties validly imposed by a BEF Member which relate to participation in International Events and activities under the jurisdiction of the FEI shall be treated as penalties validly imposed by the BEF and shall accordingly be recognised by the FEI and all other National Federations.