



EEF Statement regarding FEI Jumping Rules amendment Article 259

The European Equestrian Federation (EEF) welcomes, in general, the adoption of the revised FEI Jumping Rules, which will take effect as of 1 January 2026, and acknowledges the introduction of Article 259 – Jumping Recorded Warning, as approved at the 2025 FEI General Assembly in Hong Kong.

"With the approval of Article 259 – Jumping Recorded Warning, the EEF would like to echo the FEI press release of 7 November 2025, which contains explanations that contribute to a better understanding of the new article and its relationship with other key welfare rules." Quentin Simonet

Rules concerning mandatory disqualification for excessive use of spurs or horse abuse remain unchanged. The FEI also retains the authority to open disciplinary proceedings and imposes stronger sanctions, including suspensions and fines, when deemed necessary.

Under the current FEI Jumping rules, it is important to note that automatic elimination applied to blood presence only on flanks without further record or sanction. It concerned less than 0.03% over the number of starts in FEI Jumping competitions from January until October 2025.

On one hand, the newly approved two-step progressive sanction continues to raise legitimate questions; on the other hand, the broader scope of this article — now not limited to blood on the flanks — together with the additional veterinary regulatory checks, transparent warning record, and for repetition in a 12 month period, a fine and one-month suspension is expected to have a strong positive effect.

"Although in the minority during the vote, several National Federations, including a number of active European National Federations, recognised certain benefits in the proposed Article 259 but nevertheless voiced serious concerns during the week."

The EEF welcomes the FEI's commitment to monitor the rule's implementation, to provide training for officials, veterinarians, and athletes, and to review any further concerns raised by National Federations in the perspective of future General Assemblies processes.

In general, the EEF encourages the FEI community to strive for better integration of horse welfare provisions within the FEI General Regulations rather than in separate disciplines rules. This would ensure greater consistency, while maintaining only limited discipline-specific elements to optimize the effectiveness of rules and sanctions.



"While the EEF does not have a voting right, we respect the different perspectives, the overall democratic rules revision process and its outcomes. The EEF has taken note of the concerns and remains committed to maintaining constructive dialogue with its Members, the FEI, and other Regional Groups to ensure concerns are appropriately addressed in future discussions and rule developments, also based on the observations and experience gained from the implementation of the new Article 259." said EEF President Quentin Simonet.

The EEF encourages its Member National Federations to take a proactive approach throughout the FEI Rules Revision Process and confirms that it will also engage actively from the outset, beginning with Phase 1 of the 2026 process, which concludes on 1 March 2026.

Together with its Members, the EEF will continue to contribute actively to this process, gathering feedback from athletes, officials, and veterinarians and will advocate for additional refinements where needed to enhance horse welfare and the integrity of the sport.