

What is the “strict liability” principle?

Under the FEI Rules, the Person Responsible is strictly liable whenever a Prohibited Substance is found in a horse. This means that a violation occurs whether or not the Person Responsible intentionally or unintentionally, knowingly or unknowingly, used a Prohibited Substance or was negligent or otherwise at fault. It is very important therefore for the Person Responsible to understand not only what is prohibited, but also what might potentially cause an inadvertent violation.

What about stable security?

A minimum level of stable security is obligatory in the majority of FEI competitions, mostly to ensure rest for the horses and for stewarding purposes. In certain lower level events, the FEI requirements are sometimes waived. However, regardless of the level of stable security, the competitor is still the Person Responsible. This means that an absence of stable security cannot be used as a valid excuse if your horse tests positive.

What is involved in sanctioning?

Should any Prohibited Substance be reported as being present in your horse at the time of competition, you and your horse will be automatically disqualified from the event.

When *Doping* substances are found, the FEI may provisionally suspend the Person Responsible and/or his or her horse prior to a full hearing before the FEI Tribunal.

Sanctions for violating anti-doping regulations may range for a first time offender from a warning to a two year ban for *Doping* substances and up to a one year ban for *Medication Class A* substances. A fine up to CHF 15,000 may also be awarded against you for any substance found. You will be given the opportunity to establish a basis for eliminating or reducing the sanction. Your explanation will be considered by the FEI Tribunal.

Decisions of the FEI Tribunal may be appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, located in Lausanne, Switzerland.

WARNINGS

- Please note that substances in the Medicine Box must not be considered as “permitted medication”. The value of using substances in the Medicine Box to treat your horse is that relatively good information on detection times is available. Always refer to the Athletes & Horses - Medication Control & Antidoping section of the FEI website for the latest information.
- Please keep in mind the possible contamination of feed by prohibited substances and discuss this with your feed supplier. Food for competition horses should be certified free of prohibited substances. Avoid buying products in retail outlets for which specifications are unclear or from retailers you do not know very well. This warning also applies to certain herbal products and feed additives.
- There is evidence that some drugs excreted in a horse’s urine can be reingested if the horse eats its bedding (particularly straw). You should always ensure that your horse has clean bedding and that the bedding could not have been contaminated by another horse.
- If a horse receives medication make sure that the medicines administered cannot spread to competition horses in adjacent stables. Isoxsuprine (a treatment sometimes used for navicular disease and laminitis) is one example of a well-known contaminating substance. If a horse is treated do not subsequently stable a competition horse in the same box without thoroughly cleaning it. Do not feed a horse from a bucket used for a treated horse.
- Keep a medical record for your horse as well as for any borrowed horses. Ask the treating/team veterinarian and the grooms to document *in writing* all treatments administered to the horse stating date, time, substance(s) administered, dose, route (e.g. intravenous) as well as name and qualifications of veterinarian.

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What are prohibited substances?

Most medicines and drugs are prohibited if detected in a horse at the time of competition. This ruling is based on the FEI's philosophy that a horse should compete on its own merits without any unfair advantage that might follow the use of drugs. It is also to prevent horses damaging themselves or their athletic potential by drugs masking unfitness, lameness or disease.

The Equine Prohibited List includes three classes of Prohibited Substances: *Doping*, *Medication Class A* and *Medication Class B*. 'Doping' implies a serious attempt may have been made to influence a horse's performance. 'Medication Classes A and B' indicate the finding of a prohibited substance that can be used in the *bona fide* veterinary treatment of a horse. The Equine Prohibited List available from www.fei.org clarifies/differentiates between prohibited substances considered to be Doping or Medication Class A and B violations.

Is any medication allowed?

Yes. Certain medications are permitted under FEI Rules. These currently include rehydration fluids, antibiotics with the exception of procaine penicillin and anti-parasite drugs (dewormers) with the exception of levamisole. In addition, some drugs to treat or prevent gastric ulcers may be given (i.e. ranitidine, cimetidine and omeprazole). The use of altrenogest (Regumate) is currently permitted for mares with oestrus-related behavioural problems. Only saline is permitted as an inhalation therapy in a competition horse.

Can I treat my horse during or prior to a competition?

If your horse needs medication and is scheduled to compete in a competition shortly, you must discuss the options with your treating/team veterinarian. Different drugs take different times to clear from the horse's system. If several drugs are used at the same time the detection periods can often be *unpredictable and longer*. With the exception of the permitted medications described above, your horse must be "clean" at the time of competition.

If your horse was treated during transport to an event or close to competition or you have any doubt as to whether a substance is still present in the horse's system, you must report this immediately upon arrival at the show to the FEI Veterinary Official and request permission for competition by arranging for your treating/team veterinarian to complete and sign the appropriate FEI Medication Form.

If your horse needs veterinary assistance or treatment at an event, your treating/team veterinarian must request permission from the FEI Veterinary Official *before* administering the medication. The appropriate FEI Medication Forms must be completed and sent to the FEI.

What is "Elective Testing"?

Elective testing provides a system whereby your treating/team veterinarian can request an FEI laboratory to test for certain prohibited substances in the urine of a competition horse. The substance(s) given to the horse must be specified. Elective testing could assist you in estimating how long a substance may be detectable in your horse's system following a course of treatment. However, the results of elective testing are unofficial and for your reference only. To use this service, carefully read the instructions and ask your treating/team veterinarian to complete the application form available on the FEI website.

What information is available on detection times for commonly used medicines?

Testing laboratories collect data on the detection times for certain substances commonly used in the routine veterinary treatment of sports horses. A list of established detection times can be found on the FEI website (Athletes & Horses section) listed in what is called the "Medicine Box".

It is very important to realise that a detection time is NOT the same as a withdrawal time. The detection time is the approximate period of time for which a drug remains in a horse's system such that it can be detected by the laboratory and is provided *only as a guide* to you and your veterinarian. The withdrawal time for a drug must be decided upon by your treating/team veterinarian and is likely to be based on the detection time plus a safety margin, chosen with the professional judgment and discretion of your veterinarian to allow for individual differences between horses such as size, metabolism, degree of fitness, recent illness or disease, etc.

The existence or non-existence of a detection time for a particular substance shall not affect the validity of a positive finding or the determination of a medication or anti-doping violation according to the FEI Rules.

Why was my horse selected for testing?

Most winning horses are tested routinely and others are selected at random. A horse may also be chosen if the Ground Jury is concerned about a horse's performance.

If your horse is selected for testing, a steward or the testing official will inform you, usually as you are leaving the competition area. He/she will accompany the horse to the collecting stables and remain with it until the sample has been collected. You must also stay with the horse or arrange for a groom or other appropriate representative to be present throughout the whole procedure.

Competitors under 18 years of age must be accompanied by their representative, who must be over 18.

What samples are collected from the horse?

Usually urine and blood are collected under the direct supervision of an FEI testing official. Each sample will be split into two parts, known as samples A and B. Sometimes other samples may be taken such as leg bandages, hair or swabs.

All samples will be carefully collected, labelled and packed, and you or your representative will be asked to sign that the procedure has been witnessed. The samples will be sealed and the package sent to an FEI laboratory.

What happens next if the report is positive?

The FEI will notify you through your National Federation that there has been a positive test result and you will be invited to respond to the FEI.

Where the positive result falls under *Medication Class A* or *B* the administrative sanctioning procedure (also called the "Fast-Track Procedure") may be offered to the Person Responsible by the FEI based upon objective criteria established by the FEI Tribunal. Repeat offences, positive findings at Major Events and all *Doping* cases will be administered according to the regular judicial procedure (with no "Fast-Track" option).

Following a positive result, you may ask for the B-sample to be analysed. You will have the right to be present or be represented during the identification and the opening of the sample to verify that the B sample container shows no sign of tampering and that the identifying numbers match the sampling paperwork. Please note that costs for the B-analysis will be invoiced to you if the results confirm the A report.

Who is responsible?

The Person Responsible for the horse is the competitor who rides or drives the horse during an event, but the owner and other support personnel including grooms and veterinarians may be regarded as additional Persons Responsible. In Vaulting, the lunger is an additional Person Responsible.

Competitors under 18 years of age remain the Persons Responsible. A representative, who must be over 18, must however be nominated when the entry form is submitted.

In the case of a borrowed horse, the competitor remains the Person Responsible. The owner or the person who is normally in charge of the horse may be considered as an additional Person Responsible. Therefore, riding a borrowed horse requires the rider to assure himself/herself that (s)he has full information on all possible treatments and medications that have been or may have been administered to the horse.