

CLEAN SPORT CAMPAIGN WITHIN IN FEI REGULATED EQUESTRIAN SPORTS

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The Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) is the world governing body of equestrian sport, encompassing 134 National Federations. The FEI not only contributes to the development of global objectives of the sport but also to their delivery.

Any sport must be conducted with integrity and provide a level playing field for those who participate in it. History has shown that sports without integrity do not thrive, and indeed lose support. In the case of equestrian sport, there is also a clear need to have integrity regarding the welfare of the horse within the sport. Maintaining the integrity needed at all these levels therefore requires effective rules, systems and suitable controls. One of the measures of integrity of a sport and also of the care of the horses that participate within it is the approach taken to preventing the use of chemical substances or practices to enhance performance levels or to hide any unfitness to compete. In 2009 the FEI globally initiated a the Clean Sport campaign, which focuses on maintaining integrity, through a series of differing measures.

Equestrian sport is unique amongst other sports in that it is effectively the showcase of a multibillion socio-economic industry. The equestrian industry from the grass roots upwards employs one person for every 10 horses and is currently growing by about 5% per year. The equine industry is also now a large source of diversified revenues for the rural community across Europe. Hence having an equestrian sport with clear integrity is protecting not only the sport and the horses within it, but also secures the development of this associated economy.

Clean Sport measures fall into three distinct areas, rules and regulations that are fit for purpose, specific integrity checks such as systems to prevent inappropriate behavior, and renewed approach to ensuring professionalization throughout the whole sport. Doping and

medication controls are a particular focus of the campaign. The demands and duration of competition for the various equestrian disciplines require horses of differing types and age to those of the one race on one day focused racehorse. Permission at equestrian events can be given for certain allowed treatments during the many days over which equestrian competition can take place. The system whereby such permissions are allowed and monitored has been significantly upgraded to ensure clarity and consistency.

The Clean Sport campaign aims at reducing the numbers of doping and medication cases, both deliberate AND accidental. Hence its delivery requires an associated effort in the area of communication and education.

Specific examples of Clean Sport measures are

Rules and Regulations

- New Anti-Doping & Controlled Medication Rules, revised sanctions (including support personnel i.e. trainers, vets etc)
- New approach to a "Prohibited List" distinguishing Doping and Medication
- Permanent List Advisory Group including key stakeholders
- Annual review of the List
- Easy to understand guides for athletes

Integrity measures

- Establishment of an investigating Integrity unit
- Stable Security at a much more sophisticated and effective level than at present through stewarding
- Introduction of CCTV surveillance when suitable
- Any Treatments of horses in supervised treatment areas
- Treatments only with written permission (analysis)

Professionalization

- Drug Information Database with access via Smartphone Apps
- Clearer communications in all areas, with guidance where needed
- Dedicated Clean Sport website
- Training of Stewards and all veterinarians on sport specific courses
- Broad range of education Initiatives from youth to elite level

For further details see www.feicleansport.org