

PROPOSAL

Belgian Equestrian Federation
February 25th, 2019



PROPOSAL FOR JUMPING RULE CHANGES FOR 2020

After reviewing the current rules as they apply since January 1st, we have some feedback on the hind boot definitions and what is allowed and how to proceed for the future. The current definitions are not consistent. As a result they are very complex to explain to the riders, officials and other stakeholders of our sport.

On top of the Belgian proposal for the hind boots, we have made some more feedback and input to improve the rules and add a new competition format which is used a lot in Belgium for low level classes with an educational idea, table "Ideal Time". Last but not least we have two sections that are linked to stewarding and safety in the warm-up arena.

The articles for which we have proposals are marked in green in the text below.

PART 1 – HIND BOOT DISCUSSION (art 257)

To make it more clear, we suggest to bundle the limitations for all boots in article 257.3. In the article 257.4 we can explain the limitations for young horses (which we also propose to finetune) and in article 257.5 the limitations for the other categories (as we move forward) will be listed.

As a result we propose following definitions :

Art 257.2.3. - For all FEI Jumping Competitions

The following criteria must be respected in relation to boots worn in all competitions:

- *The inside of the boot must be **smooth**, that is, the surface must be even and there may **not be any pressure points** on the inside of the boot; for the avoidance of doubt, stitching on the inside of the protective element that attaches the inner lining to the boot, is permitted.*
- ***No additional elements may be added to or inserted in the boot itself,***
- *The total **maximum weight** of equipment allowed to be placed on a Horse's leg, front or hind (single or multiple boots, fetlock rings, etc), is 500 grams (shoe excluded).*
- ***Fetlock rings or straps may be used** for protective purposes providing they are properly adjusted and providing the total weight of equipment on the horse's leg does **not exceed 500 grams** (see JRs 257.2.3).*
- ***Fasteners must be one-directional**, that is, the fastener must be attached directly from one side of the boot to the other side and may not wrap around the entire boot; no mechanism permitting the fastener to double back on itself is permitted*

Art 257.2.4. - For all FEI Jumping Competitions for Young Horses (five, six, seven and eight year old Horses):

On top of the limitations outlined in 257.2.3, the following criteria must be respected in relation to hind boots worn in international Young Horses Competitions:

- *All hind leg protections must have a **maximum interior length of 16 centimetres** (refer to FEI Jumping Stewards' Manual on the FEI website for diagram).*
- *The rounded protective element of the boot must be placed around the **inside of the fetlock.***
- *Following type of **fasteners** are permitted;*
 - ***One single velcro-type (elastic or non-elastic) fastener. In this case the width of the fastener must be at least five centimetre.***
 - ***Two fasteners (elastic or non-elastic) with a minimum width of 2.5 cm each. Only stud-type fasteners (straps with a hole at the end that fits over a button) or velcro type fasteners are allowed.***

- A protective flap, providing it is soft and clearly intended for protection only, may be added to the boot.

Art 257.2.5. - At all FEI Jumping Events for Pony Riders, Children, Juniors, Young Riders, U-25, Amateur Owners and Veterans, only hind boots meeting the following descriptions may be used:

2.5.1. **Boots as** described in Art. 257.2.4 for FEI Jumping Competitions **for Young Horses.**

2.5.2. Boots that have a protective element on the inside and outside, that is, **double-shell boots** that wrap around the back of the fetlock, are permitted providing they meet the following criteria:

- The boot must have a **maximum length of 16 centimetres.**
- The **rounded protective part** of the boot must be placed **around the fetlock.**
- Following type of **fasteners** are permitted;
 - **One single velcro-type (elastic or non-elastic) fastener. In this case the width of the fastener must be at least five centimetre.**
 - **Two fasteners (elastic or non-elastic) with a minimum width of 2.5 cm each. Only stud-type fasteners (straps with a hole at the end that fits over a button) or velcro type fasteners are allowed**

PART 2 – OTHER PROPOSALS

1. Practice obstacle – Ground Lines (Art 201.4.1)

It is needed to clarify in the article about the Ground Lines the restrictions for vertical obstacles and oxers. Now the article looks as if this would be authorized for any obstacle. As a result we propose the following modification.

Art 201.4.1

4.1. Ground lines may be placed directly underneath the first part of an obstacle or up to one metre away on the take-off side. If there is a ground line on the take-off side of **a vertical** obstacle, a ground line may be placed on the landing side of the obstacle at an equal distance up to a maximum of 1.00 m. This specific additional ground line is not authorized for an oxer.

2. Change of rider during an event (Art 254.4)

We would propose to allow changes of riders WITHOUT being of the same NF, naturally in accordance with the provisions of the schedule. We notice our sport becoming more and more global and would like to see this reflected in this article.

Art 254.4.

Changing horses by individuals at CSIOs and CSIs is allowed conform to the number of Horses each individual athlete is allowed to ride during the event in accordance with the provisions of the schedule. A change made is irreversible.

3. Children, Juniors and Young Riders (Article 255)

We notice in the current level of show jumping that the quality of the horses increases, as well as the competency level of younger athletes. As a result we propose to change this article with regards to the restrictions of younger athletes. These changes would also align the rules with the heights as they are being constructed at for instance European Championships for these Athletes. The proposed changes are highlighted in yellow.

Art 255 Children, Juniors and Young Riders (Refer also to Annexes IX and XII)

1. Subject to the exclusions mentioned in paragraphs 2 and 3 below, Athletes may, with the express permission of their NF, take part in certain Competitions for Seniors from the year in which they reach their 12th birthday.

2. A Junior or Pony Rider or Child may never ride in Competitions for their category and in a Senior Competition, a Competition for Amateurs or a Competition for Young Horses at the same Event.
3. Before the year in which they reach their 18th birthday Athletes may not take part in:
 - a Grand Prix at a CS14* to CS15*;
 - a Grand Prix at a CS101* to CS105*;
 - a Nations Cup Competition at CS101* to CS105*;
 - an FEI World Cup™ Competition;
 - a Power and Skill Competition;
 - a Derby;
 - the Competition with the highest prize money at a CS13* to CS15* and CS101* to CS105* if this is not one of the Competitions listed.

3.1 From the year in which they reach their 12th birthday until the end of the year in which they reach their 13th birthday Athletes may take part in certain Competitions at CSI and CSIO 1* to 5* Events providing the height of obstacles in the initial round does not exceed 1.35 m. (NB: A separate classification must be established for Children Athletes as prize money for Children's Competitions is not allowed.)

3.2 From the year in which they reach their 14th birthday until the end of the year in which they reach their 15th birthday Athletes may participate in all Competitions at CS11* Events (excluding those listed above in Art. 255.3), and in certain Competitions at CS12* to CS15* and CSIO 1* to 5* Events providing the height of obstacles in the initial round does not exceed 1.45 m.

3.3 From the year in which they reach their 16th birthday, Athletes may participate in all Competitions at CS11* and CS12* Events (excluding those listed above in Art. 255.3). From the year in which they reach their 16th birthday until the end of the year in which they reach their 17th birthday Athletes may take part in certain Competitions at CS13* to CS15* and CSIO1* to CSIO5* Events.

4. Saddlery (art 257)

Art 257.2.1. The Athlete must not directly or indirectly tie any part of his body to the saddlery.

This sentence in the rules needs clarification or a change to enable riders to use for example the so-called airbag systems that ties their inflatable bodyprotector to the saddle.

PART 3 – NEW COMPETITION FORMAT

In lower level classes, we have a competition format in Belgium called the "Ideal Time". We would propose to add it also to the FEI Jumping Rules as it is a good format for educational, lower level classes, creating a level playing field, based on objective criteria.

The format can be added in the table A format, but also in the accumulator classes

Art 238.3 Competition against an ideal time

1. Athletes with equality of Penalties for any place are placed in accordance with the difference (in absolute values) in time taken to complete the round and the pre-calculated ideal time.
2. This competition does not have a time allowed, but there is a time limit. The following time limits are applicable.
 - (i) Three minutes, if the length of the course is 600m or more, OR
 - (ii) Two minutes, if the length of the course is less than 600m.
3. The course plan does not contain the length of the course and the ideal time is not mentioned neither. The ideal time only gets announced at the end of the class for all competitors. The time limit is mentioned on the course plan. The electronic time keeping device is used to show the countdown and the time realized by the athlete.
4. In exceptional cases, and according to the limitations outlined in article 204.3, the ground jury, in consultation with the course designer, can change the ideal time after 3 combinations

Art 269 Competition against an ideal time

3. *This Competition may take place either with the first round against the clock without a jump-off, or against the clock or not against the clock with a jump-off in case of equality of points for first place following the initial round, or against an ideal time. In case of a jump-off there will be a minimum of six obstacles, which may be increased in height and/or spread. The obstacles in the jump-off must be jumped in the same order as in the first round and retain their respective points allotted in the first round.*
4. *If the Competition takes place not against the clock with a jump-off, Athletes not qualified for the jump-off are placed according to their points obtained in the first round, disregarding the time. If the Competition takes place with the first round against the clock and a jump-off, Athletes not qualified for the jump-off are placed according to Penalties and time obtained in the first round. If the Competition takes place against an ideal time, Athletes are placed according to the points obtained in the first round and the difference (in absolute values) in time taken to complete the round and the pre-calculated ideal time. In this last case, the principles as outlined in article 238.3 are also taken into account.*

PART 4 – STEWARDING

Stewarding has been evolving over time. Last few years, many updates to the stewarding manual have been made, but seen the evolution of modern sport, it is useful to re-evaluate some of the measures that are outlined in the manual and in different sections of the rules. Namely with regards to difference between horses and pony's and categories of riders (youth and seniors), it would make sense to review these aspects. On top of that, riders are asking for consistency by the officials in applying the rules. Because of the complexity, lots of officials are getting confused.

A few clear examples about these differences.

- Standing martingale is only allowed for children classes. Can't we remove this? It is not allowed for all other categories. Why should it be allowed for children?
- The allowed nosebands for pony's and children are very limited. What is the reasoning behind this? Why not open up the allowed nosebands for these categories as well, just like for all other age categories? What makes pony's so different to the horses classes?
- Sheepskin is not allowed for nosebands at pony events, whilst it is allowed for all other competitions. What is the reasoning behind this?
- Spurs for pony riders have clear restrictions. Wouldn't it make sense to apply universal restrictions for all categories instead of limit this to pony riders? This could also reduce the number of blood cases leading to eliminations but also creating a negative perception of our sport.

The stewarding aspect in view of the welfare of the horse is a crucial and very important aspect in the modern sport. Riders are looking for consistency across all ages and all categories and also the officials are getting lost in the numerous rules specifically because of the differences and inconsistencies between the different categories. The items outlined above could already help a lot!

PART 5 – STEWARDING AND SAFETY IN THE WARM-UP

Sometimes we see people standing after the fence, acting as a human landing pole in the warm-up. Can we mention in the stewarding manual that this is not allowed. Unfortunately, in Belgian we had a fatal accident (on a national show) in such a situation, with a horse kicking after landing after the jump and hitting the owner of the horse. The occurred injury was fatal.