

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 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. Examples of 'Doping' and 'Medication' classes of Prohibited Substances are provided in the Equine Prohibited List that can be found on the FEI website.

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. Please note that only saline is permitted as an inhalation 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. 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 obtain 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 obtain permission from the FEI Veterinary Official *before* administering the medication. The appropriate FEI Medication Forms must be completed and will be sent to the FEI. The information provided will be considered along with the results of any subsequent medication test.

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, keep in mind that the results of elective testing are unofficial and for your reference only. To make use of 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 time 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. Substances for which detection times have been or are being established can be found on the FEI website and are listed together 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 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.

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 in 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 a FEI laboratory.

What happens next if the report is positive?

Positive test results typically occur in about 2-3% of all FEI samples. The FEI will notify your National Federation that there has been a positive test result. You will be informed by your Federation and will be invited to respond.

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 the objective criteria established by the Judicial Committee. All positive findings which do not fall under the above criteria or do fall under Doping Prohibited Substances will be administered according to the regular judicial procedure (with no "Fast-Track" option).

You may then 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 may be invoiced if the results are positive.

Who is responsible?

The Person Responsible for the horse is normally 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.

In the case of a borrowed horse, even if the owner is considered as a Person Responsible under the FEI Rules, *this does not discharge the rider of his/her responsibility*. Therefore, riding a borrowed horse necessitates the rider assuring himself/herself that they have full information on all possible treatments and medications that have been administered to the horse.

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's bodily specimen. 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 (see FEI Bulletin and website for further information). 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 Substances 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 Prohibited 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 Judicial Committee.

In addition, sanctions for violating anti-doping regulations may range for a first time offender from a warning to a two (2) year ban for Doping substances and up to a one (1) year ban for Medication Class A substances. You will be given the opportunity to establish a basis for eliminating or reducing the sanction. Your explanation will be considered by the FEI Judicial Committee. A fine up to CHF 15,000 may also be awarded against you.

There is a right of appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, situated in Lausanne, Switzerland.

For more information, please contact the Veterinary or Legal Departments of the FEI. Always refer to the Medication Control section of the FEI website for up to date relevant information (www.horsesport.org), including modifications to the Equine Prohibited List and other FEI Rules and Regulations.

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 Veterinary section/Medication Control of the FEI website for up to date relevant information.
- Please keep in mind the possible contamination of food by prohibited substances. You should discuss this problem with your food 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 also applies to herbal products or 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 be contaminated by another horse.
- If one of your horses receives treatment, 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 a well-known contaminating substance. If a horse was treated for some time in one box, do not subsequently stable a competition horse in this box without thoroughly cleaning it.
- 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) and name and qualifications of veterinarian.
- Do not allow anybody to "fix" your horse for the next competition. Remember that a positive doping case cannot be undone and can seriously damage your professional reputation.

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