



FEI

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Hong Kong, China (HKG) 4-7 November 2025

Current Rule

Article 241 Eliminations

3. The following paragraphs lay down the reasons for which Athletes are eliminated in Jumping Competitions. The Ground Jury must enforce Elimination under the following circumstances:
 - 3.30. blood on the Horse's flank(s);
 - 3.31. Horses bleeding in the mouth (in minor cases of blood in the mouth, such as where a Horse appears to have bitten its tongue or lip, Officials may authorize the rinsing or wiping of the mouth and allow the Athlete to continue; any further evidence of blood in the mouth will result in Elimination);



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Current Rule

Article 242 Disqualification

3. Disqualification is mandatory in the following cases:
 - 3.1. marks indicating excessive use of spurs or of the whip anywhere on the Horse; additional sanctions may also apply (see JRs Art. 243);

+ possibility to open separate Abuse of Horse proceedings



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Proposed **New** Jumping Rules – New Cross References

CHAPTER IX FINES, WARNINGS, ELIMINATIONS, AND DISQUALIFICATIONS AND ABUSE OF HORSE

The consequences set out in this Chapter apply cumulatively and in addition to any other consequences(s) that may be imposed in accordance with the FEI Rules and Regulations.

ARTICLE 259 JUMPING RECORDED WARNINGS

259.1 Any blood on the Horse caused by tack or equipment or any Athlete induced blood detected during a Competition (from warm-up until completion of any post-Competition controls/testing) will result in the following consequences for the Person Responsible, issued by the President of the Ground Jury:

First Offence – Jumping Recorded Warning

Second Offence – Jumping Recorded Warning

Should the same Person Responsible receive two or more Jumping Recorded Warnings at the same or any other Event within 12 months of the delivery of the first Jumping Recorded Warning, the Person Responsible shall be issued with a fine of CHF 1'000 and be automatically suspended for a period of one month, such suspension to commence on the day after the last day of the Event where the Second Jumping Recorded Warning was issued. The FEI shall notify the Person Responsible and confirm the date of suspension. For the avoidance of doubt, the delivery of the notification from the FEI after the start date of the suspension shall in no way invalidate or postpone the commencement of the suspension.

See also Article 264.2.1 (Mandatory disqualification for excessive use of spurs or whip) and Article 265 (Abuse of Horse) and FEI General Regulations Article 142 (Abuse of Horse)

259.2 In other cases of blood on the Horse detected during a Competition (for example where a Horse appears to have bitten its tongue or lip or in cases where a Horse is bleeding from the nose), the Officials may authorise the rinsing or wiping of the blood and allow the Athlete/Horse Combination to continue the Competition, provided that the horse is deemed fit to compete in accordance with Article 259.3. The Athlete will not receive a Jumping Recorded Warning if this Article applies.

259.3 In all cases of blood on the Horse under this JRs Art 259, the Horse may only be permitted to continue in a Competition or participate in any subsequent Competition(s) at the Event if the Ground Jury, in consultation with the Veterinary Delegate, has deemed the Horse to be fit to compete.



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NEW Rule

- **Article 264 Disqualification**

264.2 The Ground Jury must impose Disqualification in the following cases:

264.2.1 marks indicating excessive use of spurs or of the whip anywhere on the Horse (additional consequences may also apply, see JRs Arts 259.1 and 265.2);

+ possibility to open separate Abuse of Horse proceedings



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Scenario 1

A horse is in the **warm-up arena** prior to its round. A Steward notices **blood** on the horse's flank.

Current Rules

- Rider has option to compete or not
- Officials do not have authority to require a veterinary check
- Horse permitted to compete in further Competitions at the Event

New Rule

- Mandatory Recorded Warning if Athlete induced/caused by tack/equipment
- Mandatory check by Ground Jury in consultation with Vet. Del. to assess fitness to compete in that Competition and further Competitions at the Event



Scenario 2

Prior to the horse competing, there is no visible blood. During the check as the horse exits the arena blood is visible on the horse's flank.

Current Rules

- Mandatory elimination from that Competition
- Horse eligible to participate in further competitions
- No requirement for veterinary check

New Rule

- Mandatory Recorded Warning if Athlete induced/caused by tack/equipment
- Mandatory check by Ground Jury in consultation with Vet. Del. to assess fitness to compete
- Not permitted to compete in future competitions if deemed unfit to compete

Note: Under the current rule, the likelihood of the Judges being able to spot blood on the horse's flank during the round is very low. Therefore, the possibility for an immediate elimination does not really exist in practice.

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Scenario 3

During the check as the horse exits the arena, minor blood is observed in the area of the mouth. The assessment of the stewards & GJ is that the horse has bitten its lip.

Current Rules

- If blood is “minor”, Officials may authorise the rinsing or wiping of the blood
- If no further blood: Athlete can continue
- If further blood: elimination
- No requirement for veterinary check

New Rule

- Officials may authorise the rinsing or wiping of the blood
- Mandatory check by Ground Jury in consultation with Vet. Del. to assess fitness to compete
- Not permitted to compete in future competitions if deemed unfit to compete.
- No Recorded Warning or sanction

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Scenario 4

As the horse exits the arena after its round, a wound on the horse's flank is observed indicating excessive use of spurs

Current Rules

- Mandatory disqualification from that Competition or from entire Event
- No requirement for veterinary check
- Possibility for additional sanctions
- Possibility to open separate Abuse of Horse proceedings

New Rule

- Mandatory disqualification from that Competition or from entire Event
- Mandatory check by Ground Jury in consultation with Vet. Del. to assess fitness to compete (if not DSQ'd from whole Event)
- Not permitted to compete in future competitions if deemed unfit to compete.
- Possibility for additional sanctions
- Possibility to open separate Abuse of Horse proceedings

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Scenario 5

The horse is competing in the arena but knocking a significant number of obstacles, hitting some of them quite hard and is showing signs of some distress

Current Rules

- Possibility for GJ to stop combination and eliminate during round (Article 241.4)
- No requirement for blood to be visible

New Rules

- Possibility for GJ to stop combination and eliminate during round (Article 241.4)
- No requirement for blood to be visible

263.2 The President of the Ground Jury (or, in their absence, their designee Ground Jury member) may ring the bell (or instruct another Ground Jury member to ring the bell) to Eliminate an Athlete/Horse Combination while a round is ongoing if the President of the Ground Jury (or their designee) decides that this would be in the best interest of the wellbeing and/or safety of the Horse and/or Athlete. The decision to Eliminate is final and not subject to appeal or protest.



New Rule – Horse Welfare Enhancements

- Mandatory fitness to compete check by Ground Jury in consultation with Veterinary Delegate in all cases of blood - **New**
- Horse only permitted to continue competing if passed fit to compete following above check - **New**
- Clearer rules for FEI Officials (no more “minor”); more consistency - **New**
- Increased transparency for monitoring blood cases and increased accountability because all Jumping Recorded Warnings will be published by the FEI - **New**
- Increased opportunity for NFs to monitor blood cases by their Athletes – NFs automatically notified of all Jumping Recorded Warnings by their Athletes - **New**
 - NFs can decide whether to impose additional welfare check and/or measures
- Mandatory Disqualification for excessive use of spurs – **No change to existing rule**
- Abuse of Horse provisions – **No change to existing rule**
- Possibility to open separate disciplinary proceedings (to impose additional sanctions) – **No change to existing rule**