

Session 6 – Officials

FEI Officials' Code of Conduct

As an FEI Official I undertake to respect all FEI Rules and Regulations at all times, and in particular the FEI Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy and the FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse.

While I am officiating as an FEI Official, I will act in an appropriate and respectful manner towards humans and animals, and I will carry out all duties in a professional manner.

I am aware that I am a representative of the FEI while officiating at any FEI Event (hereinafter the "Event/s"). I am also conscious of my role as an authority and of the associated obligation to have adequate knowledge of the principles of equestrian sport and the relevant FEI Rules and Regulations, and to apply them at all times in a fair and consistent way.

While I am officiating:

- I will refrain from consuming alcohol and I will not use any illegal substances, nor will I officiate when my judgement might be impaired by any such substance.
- I will not place bets on Athletes and Horses competing at the Event where I am officiating or otherwise receive any financial or other gain as a product of a particular result.
- I will be willing to answer the questions of stakeholders (including but not limited to Athletes, Owners and Trainers, Organisers, Grooms and my colleagues). I will take the time to politely and objectively explain my decisions where possible.
- I will be familiar with all the relevant FEI Rules and Regulations and will be well prepared for every event.
- I will cooperate fully with the Organiser of the Event and with my colleagues.

I confirm that for each FEI Event at which I officiate I will fulfill all FEI requirements (including maintaining the necessary qualification) relevant to that Event.

I commit to avoid any actual or perceived conflict of interest. A conflict of interest is defined as any personal, professional or financial relationship, including relationships of family members that could influence or be perceived to influence objectivity when representing or conducting business or other dealings for or on behalf of the FEI.

I will maintain a neutral, independent and fair position towards Athletes, Owners, Trainers, Grooms, Organisers and other Officials and stakeholders. Financial and/or personal interests will never influence my officiating duties and I will spare no effort to avoid any such perception.

Activities that lead or may lead to a conflict of interest when officiating at an FEI Event include but are not limited to:

- Acting as a Chef d'Equipe or being responsible /co-responsible for selecting teams and/or individuals or training Athletes within a National Federation present at the Event, if the teams and/or individuals participate in a competition falling within the level and age group of the authority of the Official.

- Being the Owner/part-Owner of a Horse taking part in the Event.
- Being in a situation of financial dependence or gaining financial profit from participating Owners, Athletes, Trainers or Organisers. The same rule applies with regard to National Federations or other organisations involved in the Event, if the dependence exceeds a regular employment. Employees of participating National Federations cannot act as President of the Ground Jury, President of the Appeal Committee, Chief Steward or Course Designer at Official International Events, International Championships and Games.
- Having a close personal relationship with an Athlete competing at the Event.

On becoming aware of a potential Conflict of Interest I undertake to promptly notify the FEI HQ of any of the above or other possible conflicts of interest or circumstances that may be perceived as such.

Conflicts must be avoided whenever practicable. However, conflicts may be linked to experience and expertise that is necessary to qualify Officials. The specific balance between conflict and expertise is regulated by the General Regulations and the relevant Sport Rules.

In the course of my duties or when representing the FEI I will refrain from making any public statements, including to the media or in social media, that might cause harm to the FEI or to equestrian sport in general. This includes statements that might create a perception of bias.

I will dress appropriately.

The breach of any obligation assumed under this Code of Conduct and/or any breach of the FEI Rules and Regulations may lead to any of the following sanctions as stipulated in the FEI Rules:

- A warning letter
- Obligation to attend an FEI course and/or to pass an exam
- Fine
- Suspension from officiating duties (provisional or for a stated period of time)
- Removal from the relevant and appropriate FEI lists of Officials.
- Any other sanctions as stated in the relevant FEI Rules or Regulations

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