

Veterinary examination protocol

FEI Jumping Rules Article 259



Further to FEI Jumping Rules Article 259, Veterinary Delegates may be requested to examine Horses that have been detected with blood on any part of their body and advise the Ground Jury on the Horse's fitness to compete. This is the protocol for the examination, recording of the situation and determination of fitness to compete and reporting to the FEI Veterinary & Equine Welfare Department.

The protocol also applies to all Official Veterinarians officiating in a Veterinary Commission and Additional Veterinary Delegates. (Please see VRs Articles 1106-1107)

FEI Jumping Rules

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.

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 JRs Art 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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Principles for Jumping Rule Article 259

The article applies from warm-up until completion of any post-Competition controls/testing

ORDER OF ACTIONS

1. Steward gather evidence in accordance with the FEI Jumping Stewards Blood Protocol
2. Steward/GJ requests the VD/VC/AVD to examine the source of blood
3. The VD/VC/AVD advises the GJ on the Horse's fitness to compete
4. GJ in consultation with VD/VC/AVD decides on the horse's fitness to continue competition

VD/VC/AVD- LOCATION & EQUIPMENT, SCENARIOS

- During competition - Location between Warm-up Arena and Competition Arena
- Reachable for the GJ and Stewards
- Equipped with mobile phone, disposable gloves

TWO MAIN SCENARIOS

In cases to assess the combination proceeding in the same competition:

Examination in a location as quiet and discrete as feasible given the time constraints and limitations of the venue.

In cases to assess further participation in competition(s) in the Show

Examination in the horse's own stable or in the Treatment Boxes

SAFETY, BIOSECURITY, EMERGENCIES

- Take the necessary measures to ensure safety for people and horses
- Maintain high standards of biosecurity – wear clean disposable gloves and while examining the mouth or nostrils, sleeves must be rolled up etc.
- Should the bleeding be severe, the horse's health and welfare must be prioritised by stopping the bleeding before any other steps are taken

VETERINARY EXAMINATION FOLLOWING DETECTION OF BLOOD

Anywhere on the skin

- Determine the location of the blood, origin of the blood, size and severity.
- Examine the wound to determine its depth, the level of trauma to underlying tissues and if it requires veterinary care e.g. cleaning, sealing etc.
- Determine the likely cause of the wound.
- If veterinary care is considered necessary, refer the horse to the Treating Veterinarian.

Guidelines for determining fitness to compete in cases of blood originating from a skin wound

A. The Horse **may be considered fit to compete** if **all** the following criteria are met:

- The horse does NOT present any signs of discomfort or pain upon palpation of the area;
- the wound has stopped bleeding and there is no trauma to underlying tissues (subcutaneous tissue, fat, muscle etc.); and
- there is no perceived risk that the wound would be exacerbated by participation in subsequent competition(s) during the Show.

During the remaining Period of the Event, the wound should be re-examined by the Veterinary Delegate at appropriate intervals. Should the horse present signs of discomfort or pain upon palpation of the wound or the wound has been compromised, the GJ must be advised that the horse is NOT fit to compete.

Guidelines for determining fitness to compete in cases of blood originating from a skin wound

B. The Horse **is not fit to compete** if **any** of the following applies:

- The horse presents signs of discomfort or pain upon palpation of the wound;
- the bleeding continues and does not stop within 8 minutes* of the examination; (It is allowed to apply pressure) and
- there is trauma to underlying tissues (subcutaneous tissue, fat, muscle etc.) Multiple (regardless of depth and size) wounds or any deep wound (penetrating deeper than dermis) caused by spurs or other tack/equipment, must always be reported for potential follow up by the FEI.

* Based on normal clotting time 2-8 minutes.

Blood detected in nostrils and/or blood originating from the nasal cavity (epistaxis)

The Horse **may be considered fit to compete** if all of the following criteria are met:

- Blood is observed in a nostril and it is evident that it is caused by a small superficial wound (see A above) and not epistaxis;
- the bleeding has stopped; and
- the horse does not present any signs of pain or discomfort.

The Horse **is not considered fit to compete** if the below applies:

- Epistaxis – Not caused by a small wound outside the nasal cavity or respiratory organs. Any other blood that is observed in one or both nostrils must be considered epistaxis regardless of the magnitude of bleeding.

The horse must NOT be considered fit to compete at the event until Exercise Induced Pulmonary Haemorrhage (EIPH) and other pathological findings in the airways have been discounted by endoscopic examination of the respiratory tract. Should sedation of the horse be necessary to conduct the examination, a Form A must be submitted and approved.

Blood detected in or suspected to originate from the ophthalmic area

Any blood observed in or suspected to originate from the ophthalmic area must result in a recommendation that the horse is NOT fit to compete until it has been cleared in a thorough ophthalmic examination onsite.

If the Veterinary Delegate is uncertain, the PR should be advised to have the horse examined by a specialist ophthalmologist.

Blood detected in the mouth or suspected to originate from the oral cavity

Ideally oral examination should take place in the horse's own stable but in cases to assess the combination proceeding in the same Competition, examination can take place in location as quiet and discrete as feasible given the time constraints and limitations of the venue

In cases to assess participation in further competition(s) in the Show, oral examinations should take place in the Horse's own stable and may if it is necessary to determine the cause of the blood, be expanded beyond the below protocol.

The handler might be asked to put a hand across the nasal area of the horse for gentle stabilisation.

The thumb is placed at the lip at the level of the bit in the left side of the horse's oral commissure. The thumb must be slid into the mouth along the bit/level of the bit and downwards along the inside of the lower lip. The lip is turned outwards to allow the full oral commissure (skin and mucosal part) and the bar, to be seen. If there is a bit in the horse's mouth, it can be lifted a little to get a better view of the oral commissure. Finally, open the horse's mouth to inspect the tongue.

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1. Identify location and determine size, depth and if possible, the likely cause of the wound or ulcer.
2. Request the Steward, or if not present, another FEI Official, to take a photo of the wound/ulcer.
3. Approve that the photo correctly displays the wound/ulcer.
4. The same procedure is performed on the other side of the mouth.

Guidelines for determining fitness to compete in cases of blood originating from the mouth

A. The horse **may be considered fit to compete** if **all** of the following criteria are met:

- there is no more bleeding;
- there is no visible wound/ulcer from which the blood is suspected to originate from (please see definition above);
- the horse does not present signs of discomfort or pain upon palpation of the lip commissures, bars or other parts of the oral cavity; and
- the horse does not present signs of discomfort or pain from the bit, bridle or other tack.

Guidelines for determining fitness to compete in cases of blood originating from the mouth

B. The horse is **NOT fit to compete if ANY** of the following applies:

- There is a wound/ulcer related to the bit (Please see definition); or
- the horse presents signs of discomfort or pain upon palpation of the wound or from the bit, bridle or other tack.

Wounds in or around the mouth that are likely caused by the bit/tack/equipment or the rider's actions, must always be reported for potential follow up by the FEI. In such cases, it is vital that photos are taken of the tack/equipment and sent with the Veterinary Report under the Injuries section.