

Changes in FIPO as of April 1, 2008

The FEIF Delegates' Assembly 2008 in Reykjavík (IS) approved of the following changes in FIPO:

1. Harmonisation between FIPO and Sport Judges Guidelines

Last year several language corrections have been made to the Sport Judges' Guidelines, especially regarding to the wrong translation from German into English in the past ('tempo' in stead of 'speed'). Also the judges prefer to change 'working tempo' into 'slow'. The descriptions in FIPO will be adapted accordingly.

This means changes in all oval track tests (T1, T2, T3, T5, T6, T7, T8, V1, V2, V3, V4, V5 V6, F1, F3, F3) and Free Style Performance (FS1).

2. Seat and aids in oval track classes

It is decided to remove the separate mark for Seat and Aids from all oval track classes (the former youth classes), as the marks don't work the way they should. Judges feel also that the new tools to add 0.5 for good riding style and to deduct up to 1.5 or 2.0 for bad riding style (when needed accompanied by a yellow card) are clearer.

This means changes in the following oval track tests: T5, T6, T7, T8, V3, V4, V5, V6, F3.

3. Option to add/deduct 0.1 from the final mark in preliminary rounds of oval track tests with two parts

In oval track tests with only two sections it is difficult to place riders in the right sequence when the judges use a scale of marks per section with half points. For this reason the judges in oval track tests with only two sections will be allowed to add or deduct 0.1 to/from the end mark in preliminary rounds. At the moment the following oval track tests have only two sections: T5, T6, T7, T8.

This change of rule will lead to the following change in FIPO 5.3.1:

The judges use a scale of marks per section from 0.0 to 10.0 (inclusive), with half points.

Their final mark is rounded to one decimal place. In tests with only two sections judges are allowed to add or deduct 0.1 from this final mark. Only the final mark is shown. With 5 judges the highest and lowest mark will be disregarded. The final score calculated by the secretariat is the arithmetic mean of the three marks, rounded to two decimal places.

Rounding is done following the common mathematical rules.

4. Change of horses in V4 Finals

An increasing number of riders don't feel comfortable to have another rider riding their horse in the V4 final. For this reason the change of horses is taken out of V4 (FIPO 9.4.3). This will lead to the following change of FIPO:

9.4.3.3 Final round

The horses show the four gaits as instructed by the speaker as described in 5. They ride on the rein agreed upon and in the order selected by the majority of the riders. In the event of a draw the vote of the preliminary round's winner is doubled.

If no other agreement is made, the order will be as follows:

1. *medium walk*
2. *any tempo tölt*
3. *transition of walk/tölt and tölt to walk, separately ridden as instructed by the speaker*
Change rein
4. *working to medium tempo trot*
5. *working to medium tempo canter; the start into canter and the stop after canter into walk is shown separately by each rider as instructed by the speaker.*

5. Number of riders in group tests

To avoid overcrowded groups in what many countries call Sport B (T3, V2, F2) and to speed up the handling of other group tests at the same time the number of riders on the track in T2, T3, V2 and F2 will be limited to maximum 3 riders in preliminary rounds and in other group tests (V3, V4, T5, T6, T7, T8) up to 5 riders in preliminary rounds.

This will lead to the following change in FIPO 5.4.2:

5.4.2 Finals and preliminary rounds with more than one horse on the track

In preliminary rounds up to 5 horses enter the track. However in T3, V2 and F2 up to 3 horses enter the track.

The horses must enter the oval track at the speaker's command on the rein on which the first section is begun (see: 5.5). The riders spread themselves evenly around the oval track. The beginning and the end of each section is directed by the speaker.

During the intervals when the marks are being shown, the horses may only be ridden at walk. In order to spread out, the riders can circle at the request of the speaker, under supervision of the chief judge.

Exit via the oval track.

(N.B. FIPO 8.2.2. will be corrected accordingly.)

6. Riders' dress and Equipment

The use of an approved riding hat (helmet) is mandatory for all events (FIPO 3.3). This will lead to the following change in FIPO:

3.3 Riders' dress/equipment

At international sport competitions riders should wear a riding jacket or plain sports pullover or waistcoat, riding breeches with riding boots or jodhpurs with Jodhpur boots. In Pace race and Pace tests riders should wear riding breeches with riding boots or jodhpurs with jodhpur boots, but may be otherwise dressed casually and appropriately. Spurs are forbidden.

Riders must wear a riding hat approved by an official body at all times when mounted.

The whip must not be longer than 120 cm including the tassel. In pace races whips are forbidden. The rider can use only one whip at the time. The rule concerning whips is valid for the whole competition area and for the entire duration of the competition.

7. Start boxes

The description of start boxes in FIPO doesn't fit the current practice. In order to be able to follow developments in this area it is decided to put the exact description of the requirements in the hands of the sport committee (like with wind measuring) and to add the required measurements in an addendum to FIPO. This will lead to a change of measures into: preferred width: 95 cm, preferred length inside the doors 210 cm and preferred height of the walls 250 cm. It will be stated clearly that start boxes have to be safe for both horses and riders.



It is also decided to take out the reference to automated starting machines, as it is not clear what this means. A drawing of good starting boxes (based upon the model used during the World Championships 2007) will be added to FIPO.

This will lead to the following changes in FIPO:

6.3 Time keeping

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When starting boxes are used ~~in connection with an automatic starting machine~~ the time measuring shall begin when the doors start to open. (i.e. the automatic time keeping system should be connected to the opening system of the starting boxes).

8.5.1 to be replaced by: Start boxes

When start boxes are used they should meet the requirements set and published by the Sport Committee. The requirements include a definition of the starting line and the way electronic time keeping equipment has to be connected to the start boxes.

Description of start boxes

Preferred width: 95 cm, preferred length inside the doors 210 cm and preferred height of the walls 250 cm. Startboxes should be safe for horses, riders and helpers, both by construction and the material used.

8. Rules for training of horses during (sport) events

As there is often confusion about what equipment and training techniques are allowed during training of horses at competitions (ground work) the rules set by the Sport Committee that are published before World Championships about ground work will be added as an addendum to FIPO.

These rules are:

Ground work at events

The aim to allow groundwork is to enable riders to maintain the (training) form of their horse during the period they are present at events.

Groundwork here means: lunging a horse in a designated lunging area. Normal and common use of groundwork will be allowed and also training methods with the use of generally accepted lunging equipment will be allowed.

Allowed are:

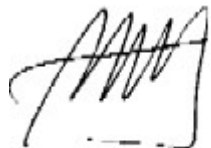
- *lunging rein or double lunging rein*
- *the lunging lines may be connected directly to the bit/cavesson or through the lungeing surcingle to the bit/cavesson or through the bit/cavesson to the lunging surcingle/roller*
- *bridle with noseband and bit or cavesson*
- *lunging surcingle/roller*
- *with rings for the lounging lines*
- *lunging whip with a length over the length allowed by FIPO*
- *side reins with a direct (straight) connection between the bit/cavesson and the lunging surcingle/roller only*
- *other equipment allowed by FIPO and not in conflict with the aim of groundwork*
- *the position of the 'rider' to the horse on the ground is optional.*

Any use of other equipment or mechanical systems like chambon, gogue, chambogue, martingale, smart jock, 'Spanish Rider', (neck) stretchers or weights over 300 g per foot, will not be allowed (these examples are not exhaustive).



If there are any doubts about equipment used, the chief judge will decide upon it.

These changes in FIPO will be valid as off April 1, 2008 (for sport events starting on or after April 1, 2008).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MM', with a horizontal line underneath.

Marko Mazeland
FEIF Director of Sport

