



INTERNATIONAL TREC RULES
Applicable as of 1st January 2016

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PREAMBLE

The International Equestrian Tourism Federation is the sole international organisation with the authority to govern TREC competitions.

According to procedures decided by the FITE and the relevant specifications, the actual organisation of each of the various competitions is allocated to a National Equestrian Tourism Organisation (NETO), designated by the FITE.

TREC competitions are open to all equines and determine the best national team or the best horse and rider combination, over a series of phases rather than just in one single area.

A TREC competition comprises three phases:

- ◆ The POR phase (Orienteering and Regularity),
- ◆ The MA phase (Control of Paces),
- ◆ The PTV phase (Obstacle course).

I – ORGANISATION

Art 1.1 – Land and equipment

The Organising Committee must provide the following:

- ◆ stables
- ◆ a veterinary inspection area,
- ◆ an area for the presentation to take place,
- ◆ a map reading room,
- ◆ an approved POR, without any apparent danger,
- ◆ a warm-up area for the Control of Paces phase and the PTV phase,
- ◆ an area for running the Control of Paces phase,
- ◆ a PTV course, built to be in line with technical requirements.
- ◆ this list is not exhaustive and may be supplemented by a specification pertaining to a single competition.

Art 1.2 – Veterinary

- ◆ A vet is appointed by the Organising Committee and, as appropriate, assisted by a commission.
- ◆ Veterinary inspections must take place in a flat area, in a straight line, on a firm but yielding surface without slopes
- ◆ Except for the veterinary check-up which takes place during POR, it must take place near stables. One or more watering points must be available to for the horse.
- ◆ Presentation during the veterinary inspection can be done either with snaffle or halter.
- ◆ Difficult horses and stallions must be presented with a bridle.

Art 1.3 – Timing Officials

- ◆ A timing official is provided by the Organising Committee.

II – COMPETITIONS

Art 2.1 – General

All TREC competitions organised by the FITE, whether individual championships or team championships per continent, International Open competitions, on the initiative of one or several NETOs, etc. must comply with the international rules.

However, certain articles may be modified by organisers, according to the competition, with the formal agreement of the FITE.

The only competitions that can be considered as international TREC competitions are those that are part of the FITE event schedules.

Specific rules for the European Open Cup and the Nations Cup accept different national rules that are compatible with those of the FITE.

Specific features of the Young Riders section are also given in these rules.

Version dated December 17th 2015 - The French version prevails.

A – World Senior Championship

As of 2004, a world championship is organised every four years.

B – World Senior Championship

As of 2006, a European senior open championship is organised every four years.

C – World Young Riders' Championship

As of 2012, a world Young Riders' championship is organised every two years.

D – European Open Young Riders Championship

As of 2013, a European Open Young Riders championship is organised every two years.

E – European Open Cup

- ◆ This is intended to bring together TREC riders throughout the sports season in order to encourage exchange of techniques and to bring competitors closer together.
- ◆ Every year it is organised from 1st January to 31st December under the FITE's governance, by member NETOs and is open to their affiliated riders.
- ◆ NETOs whose TREC competition rules are compatible with the FITE rules are authorised to organise these competitions.
- ◆ Each NETO can organise a maximum of three TREC competitions per season to be included in the FITE event schedule.
- ◆ The FITE will include competitions in its event schedule for the following year that are declared to it by the NETOs, at latest by the 1st November of the previous year.
- ◆ Other additional Open competitions organised by the NETO's will not give riders points Which count towards the annual European Cup rankings.
- ◆ The FITE will only validate results from TREC events that are part of the event schedule.
- ◆ Entries must be sent to the organiser at latest by midnight on Friday of the week preceding the competition on FITE entry forms.
- ◆ The relevant ranking is drawn up and announced by the FITE at the end of the season.
- ◆ Any competition that is part of the FITE event schedule is considered to be part of the European Cup circuit, *even if there is no foreign participation.*
- ◆ The World TREC Championship and the European Open TREC Championship are not European Cup competitions. Rankings obtained by competitors in these two championships do not count towards the European Cup ranking.

E – Nations Cup

- ◆ The Nations Cup will take place over the same competitions as the European Cup and will give a team ranking.
- ◆ The season follows the same cycle as the individual European Cup.
- ◆ A Nations Cup is organised every two years alternating with the World Championship and/or the European Championship.
- ◆ Entries must be sent to the organiser at latest by midnight on Friday of the week preceding the competition on FITE entry forms.

III – JURIES

Art 3.1 - Composition of juries for World and/or European Championships

Officials are proposed by the FITE sports commission for these Championships.

Ground Jury, Appeal Jury and the veterinary commission decisions are taken on an absolute majority vote of each of the members, with the Jury President having the casting vote.

The Ground Jury President and the Technical Delegate must be informed of any incidents occurring during the competition.

A – Ground Jury

1 – Members

- ◆ The President of the Ground Jury appointed by the FITE bureau,
- ◆ Two international TREC judges from FITE, including one foreigner, put forward by the Organising Committee
- ◆ The FITE Technical Delegate, in a consultative role.

2 – Role

- ◆ It must ensure that these rules are applied,
 - ◆ It is responsible for its implementation by various judges and controllers,
- ◆ It must receive and process appeals
- ◆ It must validate the results of each phase and of the final result.

Cases not appearing in this list are addressed by the Ground Jury. The Jury is competent to take decisions based on common sense and fair play rules most suitable to the spirit of FITE rules.

B – Appeal Jury

- ◆ Presided over by the President of the FITE sports commission
- ◆ It also comprises two international judges put forward by the President of the Appeal Jury
- ◆ The FITE Technical Delegate, in a consultative role.
- ◆ The Jury meets upon request from the FITE President, after the competition at a date and venue to be defined
- ◆ Its role is to rule on events that the Ground Jury has failed to resolve
- ◆ It may call upon and consult ground judges and the competitors concerned
- ◆ Expenses linked to meetings of this Jury, including travel and accommodation expenses, are fully covered by FITE

C – Technical Delegate

The Technical Delegate is the FITE's technical point of reference.

He is designated by the Bureau, as proposed by the FITE President.

He works under the authority of the FITE President to whom he reports on his activities, unless otherwise specified in regulations.

The Technical Delegate is a qualified official:

- in specific riding techniques and the relevant teaching techniques
- in sports events: organising and preparing competitions.

The Technical Delegate is authorised to involve specialist technical officials and to encourage their training

He is backed up by an alternate Technical Delegate that is proposed for appointment to the FITE President and may replace the Technical Delegate if he is not available.

This decision, taken by the FITE President, is not the responsibility of the event organisers or the NETOs that they are part of.

The Technical Delegate may be assisted by specialist officers: event organisers, course designers, etc... and may encourage training for them:

- ◆ The Technical delegate must ensure that the event complies with the recommendations for organisers as published by FITE. The Technical Delegate must carry out a feasibility visit of the proposed site accompanied by the candidate NETO and their designated representative, before the Annual General Meeting is held to give definitive approval of the presented application.
- ◆ The FITE's statutory General Assembly is held every year in September conjointly with an international TREC competition, and the feasibility visit for the following year's proposed site must have been carried out before this meeting.
- ◆ The relevant Technical Delegate's report is sent to the FITE President at least one month before the date of the General Assembly.

- ◆ The Technical Delegate reports to the FITE President on any possible difficulties encountered in carrying out his inspection.
- ◆ He checks the organisation during the championship and reports to the President of the Ground Jury.

D – Judges

Judges are appointed by the Organising Committee.

International judges and trainers must follow refresher courses and regularly officiate at events. The protocol can be consulted on the FITE website www.fite-net.org

E – Timing Officials

Placed under the authority of the Ground Jury President, these officials are involved in several phases:

- ◆ The Control of Paces phase,
- ◆ The PTV phase.

IV - COMPETITORS

Art 4.1 – General entry conditions

A – World and/or European Open Championship

According to the schedule defined by the FITE, each National Equestrian Tourism Organisation (NETO) sends the following to the organiser of the World or European Open Championship:

- ◆ their intention to participate, at least 90 days before the championship.
- ◆ the list of team members at least 15 days before start of the championship: six riders, of which four will make up the national team, the two remaining riders only competing as individuals.

B – European Open Cup

Any rider can participate in the TREC European Open Cup unless otherwise decided by the NETO. Participation is individual.

The competitors can use several different horses during the same sports season.

C – Nations Cup

Any rider can participate, unless otherwise decided by the NETO.

Participation is in teams of 3 or 4 riders from the same nation,

Competitors making up the team will be declared on the day before the competition at latest.

Art 4.2 – Specific conditions for Young Riders

Riders participating in the competitions must be aged at least 16 years old and at most 21 years old in the calendar year. However, any other rules in force in the host country are applied as a priority.

Art 4.3 – Turnout

Correct turnout is required.

The wearing of an approved safety helmet is compulsory for all competitors in all phases, all sections and all competitions, whenever they are riding a horse, and throughout the whole competition.

Back protection "body protectors" must be worn by all PTV competitors.

The ground jury reserves the right to not allow competitors to start with inappropriate or ill-suited equipment.

The dressage whip is only permitted for Control of Paces events.

Art 4.4 – Methods of communication

Any competitor who, for reasons of safety, wants to have a cell phone, GPS, radio, walkie-talkie, etc. in their possession, must declare it to judges before the start of the POR when entering the map reading room. The device will be sealed by stewards in a special pack that will then be given back to the competitor.

V – HORSES

Art 5.1 – Requirements for the participation of horses

Horses participating in the competitions must:

- ◆ be aged at least 5 years old
- ◆ have the appropriate identification document
 - FEI passport or
 - national passport with a graphical outline, and up-to-date vaccination details according to legislation in the organising countries.
- ◆ To avoid any difficulty in terms of compliance with health requirements as described above and/or other national obligations the Organising Committee must inform the FITE and all NETOs likely to participate in competitions in good time – publication of the pre-programme.

Art 5.2 – Vaccination procedure

So as to be considered vaccinated against equine flu, a horse must have been administered:

- a) An initial vaccination comprising 2 anti-flu injections between 21 and 92 days apart
- b) An annual booster, so that the gap between two injections does not exceed 12 months
- c) A vaccination no more than 6 months before the day of the competition.

No injection may be administered in the 7 days running up to the horse's arrival at the competition venue.

Art 5.3 – Tack and equipment

Tack must be perfectly suited to the horse and the type of competition.

Side saddles are not authorised.

All of the phases are carried out with the same tack or with strictly identical tack, with or without bit, same saddle, same reins.

The same saddle packs are required for the whole duration of the POR. These may be dismantled for the Control of Paces and PTV phases.

Bits may be freely chosen and hackamores are authorised. It is also authorised to ride in a head collar.

Training aids: only running martingales are authorised.

For the POR phase, competitors must have all the necessary equipment for a whole day's ride, part of which takes place at night:

- ◆ head collar, lead rope,
- ◆ electric lamp and reflective device to be visible to the rear or a light with a white light in front and a red light at the back, or as appropriate any other compulsory device in the organising nation,
- ◆ for shod horses, a hoof boot or an emergency farriery kit
- ◆ identification for the rider and horse (photocopies as appropriate in countries where this is allowed)
- ◆ minimum first aid kit, injectable products prohibited. It must include, at least, the following elements:
 - ◆ 6 sterile swabs,
 - ◆ 1 pair of round-ended scissors,
 - ◆ 1 elasticated bandage, around 10cm wide,
 - ◆ 1 disinfectant or antiseptic solution

The equipment intended to carry this kit must be perfectly suitable: saddle bags, packs, and possibly pocketed saddle cloths. At any point on the POR, the Ground Jury can check if the rider still has the equipment that was listed at the start.

Tack can be checked at any point in the competition. Saddles must be stamped or identified by the Ground Jury before the first phase.

Art 5.4 – Shoeing

Horses that are usually unshod may compete unshod.

At the preliminary veterinary inspection, it is noted whether the horse is shod or not. The stated condition of shoeing at this point is considered a minimum.

A horse losing a shoe during the POR must be fitted with the appropriate protective footwear (a new shoe or a hoof boot), before being authorised to start.

For POR, horses are presented during controls and the veterinary inspections and / or equipment check-up with the horse shod as during the whole of this phase. Horses wearing hoof boots may compete in other phases shod or unshod.

VI – TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Art 6.1 – Allocation of points per phase

- ◆ POR phase 240 points
- ◆ MA phase 60 points
- ◆ PTV phase 160 points
- Maximum total that can be obtained for all phases 460 points

Art 6.2 – POR phase

A - Speed

1 – Optimum speeds for each stage and average speeds for the POR

SECTION	SPEEDS PER STAGE	AVERAGE SPEED
Seniors	6 to 12 km/h	8 to 9 km/h
Young Riders	6 to 12 km/h	8 to 9 km/h

In mountain regions, involving major changes in altitude or steep slopes, the POR course designer may, with the Technical Delegate’s agreement, have stages with speeds of under 6 km/h

The optimum speeds are:

- ◆ displayed on a notice board
- ◆ told to riders by the steward at the start of the rest time between each stage
- ◆ constant over the stage in question
- ◆ chosen by the organisers between 6 and 12 km/h
- ◆ the organisers will be careful not to impose the same speed on two successive stages.

B - Distance

1 – POR distance by day

SECTION	POR DISTANCE BY DAY
Seniors	Between 35 and 45 kms
Young Riders	Between 25 and 35 kms

C – Penalty points

This phase is marked by deducting penalty points from an optimum total of 240 points allocated each time a competitor starts. The final result can be negative.

PENALTY POINTS	NUMBER OF POINTS
Time penalties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1 point per minute late or in advance of the optimum time: the time taken is rounded down to the nearest minute. ● On stages with a freely chosen route stage: point to point, coordinates, etc.... the allocated time can be either optimum or maximum. ● For maximum times, the time penalties only start once the allocated time has been exceeded.
Stage penalties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 points per piece of missing equipment, with a maximum of 10 points, in the case of listed equipment being observed to be missing. ● 30 points for arriving by a route other than that required ● 30 points for arriving with a map open on a stage to be executed with the compass. ● 50 points for any missed check-point. The two successive stages on each side of the missed check-point will be considered as one single stage to be executed at the determined speed set for the first of the two

	<p>stages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 points for not being checked through a route check-point. • 30 points for being checked through an off-route check-point. • 30 points for any competitor who does not maintain his horse in forward movement within sight of a check-point, while staying on the route towards the timed line. • A change of gait is authorised. • Any competitor who does not leave a check-point, including the start line check-point, at the allocated time is penalised by one point for every full minute following his start time. For example, a rider who leaves a check-point 4'59" after he should do will be penalised by 4 points. The new start time is given on his record book along with the penalty marks.
Horse losing a shoe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 points for a horse that arrives at a stage check-point having lost a shoe and not being replaced with a hoof boot
Veterinary penalties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 points per 5 minutes imposed by the vet.

For each stage, the score is calculated independently of the other stages. Because of this, penalties incurred in any one stage are definitively incurred and cannot be won back on the other stages.

Any competitor who has arrived at a stage check-point cannot return to the stage just completed. In case of missing stage checks, the time penalty is calculated by adding up the distances of "x" number of stages under consideration. The calculation of the ideal time is based on the most recent known speed of the competitor.

Example of time penalties for stages:

For an optimum calculated time of 55':

A competitor taking exactly 54'59" will have a real time (rounded to the minute reading) of 54' and therefore 1 penalty point.

A competitor taking exactly 55' or 55'59" will have a real time (rounded to the minute reading) of 55' and will therefore have no penalties.

A competitor taking exactly 56' or 56'59" will have a real time (rounded to the minute reading) of 56' and therefore 1 penalty point.

Art 6.3 – Control of Paces phase

A – Marking table

MARK	WALK	CANTER
	<i>time in seconds</i>	time in seconds
30	33.8 or more	67 and under
29	from 33.6 to 33.79	from 67.01 to 68
28	from 33.5 to 33. 59	from 68.01 to 69
27	from 33.3 to 33.49	from 69.01 to 70
26	from 33.2 to 33.29	from 70.01 to 71
25	from 33 to 33.19	from 71.01 to 72
24	from 32.9 to 32.99	from 72.01 to 73
23	from 32.7 to 32.89	from 73.01 to 74
22	from 32.6 to 32.69	from 74.01 to 75
21	from 32.4 to 32.59	from 75.01 to 76
20	from 32.3 to 32.39	from 76.01 to 77
19	from 32.1 to 32.29	from 77.01 to 78
18	from 32 to 32.09	from 78.01 to 79
17	from 31.8 to 31.99	from 79.01 to 80
16	from 31.7 to 31.79	from 80.01 to 81
15	from 31.5 to 31.69	from 81.01 to 82
14	from 31.4 to 31.49	from 82.01 to 83
13	from 31.2 to 31.39	from 83.01 to 84
12	from 31.1 to 31.19	from 84.01 to 85
11	from 30.9 to 31.09	from 85.01 to 86

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10	from 30.8 to 30.89	from 86.01 to 87
9	from 30.6 to 30.79	from 87.01 to 88
8	from 30.5 to 30.59	from 88.01 to 89
7	from 30.3 to 30.49	from 89.01 to 90
6	from 30.2 to 30.29	from 90.01 to 91
5	from 30 to 30.19	from 91.01 to 92
4	from 29.3 to 29.99	from 92.01 to 93
3	from 28.5 to 29.29	from 93.01 to 94
2	from 27.8 to 28.49	from 94.01 to 95
1	from 27 to 27.79	from 95.01 to 96
0	26.9 and under	96.01 and over

B – Marking:

- ◆ Control of Paces is judged anonymously. A minimum of 5 judges are posted along the corridor, plus 2 others, one at the start and one at the finish.
- ◆ Judging must be made the by each judge for the whole corridor. A fault of the same type, break or corridor, has to be noted by 2 judges in order to be counted.
- ◆ The quality of the canter is not taken into account. The gait is a 3-beat pace, and any diagonalisation will be penalised.

In both phase tests, competitor's score will be 0 if they:

- ◆ do not remain at the required gait
- ◆ come out of the obstacle corridor, even with a single hoof boot
- ◆ demonstrate inharmonious gallop.

The obstacle corridor in this case is determined by the inside edge of the markings.

The test must be timed both electronically and manually.

Art 6.4 – PTV phase

A - General

The course comprises 16 obstacles, either natural or man-made, that could be encountered when actually on a trail ride and appearing on the list of PTV obstacles.

Their dimensions vary according to the section level and are detailed in the technical data sheets for each of them.

Maximum height for jump obstacles:

- Seniors: 1.1m
- Juniors: 0.9m

Between the obstacles, riders may choose their gait. These are either freely chosen or imposed by the Ground Jury at certain other points in the course.

For reasons of safety, the Ground Jury may be involved from time to time considering weather conditions or any other reason.

In the event of a fall, a judge may momentarily stop a rider or a horse that he considers to be unfit to continue the course, stopping the clock until the President of the Ground Jury has taken a decision.

B – The course

The marked route must be displayed from the very first day of the event and must mention:

- the "Start and Finish" gates
- compulsory passage points("POs") are forbidden
- the distance
- the maximum given time
- the obstacles: name and number,
- the approach method: in-hand or ridden,
- the gait: walk, trot, canter or free.

C – Description of the obstacles

A certain amount of information is given concerning the shapes, dimensions, materials for these obstacles.

It is important to remember that this information is given for when we actually have to make the obstacle from scratch. In all cases it is recommended that natural obstacles are used wherever possible, whatever sizes and dimensions are used, as long as they represent a true obstacle without creating an objectively dangerous situation.

D – List of obstacles

The obstacles must be chosen from this list.

TREC Technical Data Sheets may be consulted on the FITE website <http://www.fite-net.org>.

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Low branches | 13. In-hand staircase up | 26. Ridden footbridge |
| 2. Bank | 14. Ridden staircase up | 27. Leading up an incline |
| 3. Driving with one hand, figure of eight | 15. In-hand ditch | 28. Riding up an incline |
| 4. In-hand corridor | 16. Ridden ditch | 29. Leading down an incline |
| 5. Ridden corridor | 17. Water crossing | 30. Riding down an incline |
| 6. In-hand drop | 18. Hedge | 31. Gate |
| 7. Ridden drop | 19. Immobility | 32. Ridden rein-back |
| 8. In-hand step-up | 20. Immobility ridden | 33. Slalom |
| 9. Ridden step-up | 21. In-hand S-bend test | 34. Tree trunk in ridden |
| 10. Dip | 22. Ridden S-bend test | 35. Tree trunk in-hand |
| 11. In-hand staircase down | 23. Mounting | |
| 12. Ridden staircase down | 24. Path crossing | |
| | 25. In-hand footbridge | |

Groupe de difficultés du PTV :

GROUPS	DIFFICULTIES
Group 1 : choice of gaits	Low branches
	Driving with one hand, figure of eight
	Ridden corridor
	Slalom
Group 2 : jumping	Ridden drop
	Ridden step-up
	Ridden ditch
	Hedge
	Path crossing
	Tree trunk in ridden
Group 3 : precision	Ridden staircase down
	Ridden staircase up
	Water crossing
	Immobility ridden
	Ridden S-bend test
	Ridden footbridge
	Ridden rein-back
	Gate
Group 4 : slope	Bank
	Dip
	Riding up an incline
	Riding down an incline

Group 5 : in-hand	In-hand corridor
	In-hand drop
	In-hand step-up
	In-hand staircase down
	In-hand staircase up
	In-hand ditch
	In-hand immobility
	In-hand S-bend test
	Mounting
	In-hand footbridgne
	Leading up an incline
	Leading down an incline
	Tree trunk in-hand

E - Distances and speeds

A marked route is followed of approximately 1.5 km to 5 km to be ridden in a set time at a speed of 12 km/h or lower, determined by the course designer for this event.

The PTV ringmaster can provided an increase of 15 seconds per all difficulty of the group 3 and 5.

F – Marking

During the World and/or European Championship, according to the PTV design, a pair of two judges can judge two obstacles with the agreement of the Technical Delegate.

Each of the obstacles is marked out of 10 according to the marking scheme and the guidelines that the judges have: this gives a maximum total of 160 points for all of the obstacles.

For a path crossing, a refusal or disobedience on the second part of the combination means that the competitor must reattempt all of the combination’s elements.

Three refusals at an obstacle leads to 0 points for this obstacle, but the competitor is not eliminated from the phase.

Break in forward movement, change of gait:

This is applied on the approach to the obstacle, only once the horse has put a foot in the obstacle penalty zone. It ceases to be applicable when the horse’s last foot leaves the obstacle penalty zone. It cannot be applied for obstacles in which jumping from a standstill is authorised.

G - Time

The maximum is determined by the PTV course designer and validated by the Technical Delegate following tests carried out before the phase.

Penalty points for exceeding the time will be deducted from the total PTV points according to the following rule:

- ◆ 1 point per tranche of 4 seconds
- ◆ Under no circumstances will the time penalties exceed 30 points.
- ◆ Under no circumstances will the timer be stopped without a Ground Jury decision.

Example: *If the optimum time is 8 minutes:*

A competitor completing the course in 8’ 00’’ will not be penalised.

A competitor completing the course in 8’ 01’’ will be penalised by 5 points.

A competitor completing the course in 8’ 01’’- 8’ 04’’ will receive a 1-point penalty.

A competitor completing the course in 8’ 05’’- 8’ 08’’ will receive a 2-point penalty, etc...

H – Deliberately not negotiating an obstacle

A competitor who does not want to pass an obstacle must:

- ◆ Stop
- ◆ Approach the obstacle judge
- ◆ Indicate his/her intention not to attempt the obstacle.

Version dated December 17th 2015 - The French version prevails.

If this does not happen he/she will be eliminated from the phase.

I – Rescue services

The organiser shall define a rescue plan for the event, according to:

- ◆ considerations specific to the event, and more particularly, the time required for public rescue services to intervene.
- ◆ the maximum number of people (spectators and competitors) that can be at the event at any one time
- ◆ recommendations and statutory regulations of the home NETO.

VII – EVENT DETAILS

Art 7.1 – Times

The competitions take place over at least 2 days.

The order of phases is defined by the Organising Committee and validated by the Technical Delegate.

The times for the three phases are communicated at latest on the evening before the first phase.

The starting order will be the same for the POR, the PTV and the Control of Paces.

Art 7.2 – Starting order draw

For the World or European championships, the starting order draw for teams is carried out during the Bureau meeting or the FITE general assembly meeting preceding the championship.

Should one of the NETOs not show up or withdraw, the starting orders are shifted by one number: e.g. No. 5 does not show up, No. 6 takes No. 5's starting slot and so on...

In the instance of new NETOs entering during the course of the year, these will start at the end, following those nations already drawn.

Art 7.3 – Starting order

Each chef d'équipe decides on the order in which his riders will compete.

The last possibility for modifying this is during the chefs d'équipe meeting on the night before the start of the event.

Individual riders must compete after the last team member of the last team. The order in which individual competitors start is such that no two competitors from any one NETO start in succession (as far as possible).

Art 7.4 – Allocation of number vests

The starting order will follow the numbering of these number vests.

All competitors will wear number vests, numbered according to the drawn order. The numbers will be attached so as to be visible on the rider's chest and back as well as on the headpiece of the horse's bridle.

Art 7.5 – Equipment inspection

This takes place at the start of the POR, with an additional check possibly organised during the phase.

It involves checking that competitors have farriery equipment and, as appropriate, a first aid kit and safety equipment.

The equipment intended to carry this kit will be perfectly suitable either using saddle bags or packs, etc.

Art 7.6 - POR

The principle of the POR is to follow the set route of a given ride at predetermined speeds.

The POR can be organised over one or two routes, within a period of less than 24 hours.

The starting time of the first competitor cannot be before sunrise.

The ideal time for the POR must be calculated so that the last competitor to start can get back before nightfall.

A record book will be given to each competitor. It must be presented at each check-point.

The competitor must check the accuracy of the information therein, which is used to compile the results of that phase.

Over the course, only the maps provided by the organiser may be in the competitors' possession.

During the preliminary veterinary inspection or equipment check-up, the horses are presented shod as during the whole of this phase.

Any assistance to competitors, unless there is a danger to the competitor, is prohibited.

Verbal communication between competitors on the POR course is not considered to be assistance in finding the route.

This route must include navigational difficulties causing orienteering problems and requiring choices in terms of using the terrain.

POR check-points are removed by the course designer after, as appropriate, consultation with the Technical Delegate and the formal agreement of the Ground Jury President in the case of certain competitors being very late.

A - Speeds

The speeds for each POR stage are compulsory.

Each competitor's score is calculated on the basis of the difference between the time it takes them to cover the course, measured at check-points that are not known about in advance, and an optimum time calculated according to the set speeds and the distance to be covered.

The distances measured on the map by the Ground Jury are the only ones to be taken into consideration.

B - Route

The route is communicated to competitors on 1/25,000 or 1/50,000 scale maps.

They must mark the route onto the maps that are given to them. Certain stages can involve a route to be followed with a compass or simply using the map co-ordinates of a meeting point, which does not necessarily have to be a check-point.

The competitors will be isolated for twenty minutes prior to the start in order to mark down their route. They must be given maps of the required scale.

C – Start-line

This is known by competitors and located **at the exit of** the map reading room. It is marked out with a red and white flag.

The speed of the first stage is displayed on a board in the map reading room.

D – Stage check-point

The competitors do not know the number and position of the check points. The time taken for each stage of the ride is measured from when the start line and the finish line is crossed by the leading foreleg of the horse.

In the case of several routes and multiple finish lines at a check-point, each of the finish lines must be marked with flags. In this case, it is recommended to double-up these flags – which must be seen at all times by the stewards, but hidden from the riders – at a distance from the finish line of no more than 100 metres.

When within sight of a check-point, competitors must go directly to it, not deviating from the marked route and without stopping.

Stewards are not authorised to question a competitor who is at a distance greater than that of the pre-marker flags.

E – Stage check-point halt

A halt of between 5 and 10 minutes must be imposed by the organisers at each check-point. This halt may be increased to 15 minutes should it include a veterinary inspection.

Stewards must check the shoes on the competitors' horses when they arrive at the check-point.

At these check-points, stewards must start competitors according to the interval set when leaving the map room.

The stewards have the power to change the halt time according to the circumstances, especially to avoid competitors meeting on the route. The time for which competitors halt is neutral and not taken account of in calculating scores.

F – Route check-point

The course designer may also place some route check-points (or tickets).

The fact that competitors have passed these route check-points must be validated by the check-point controller, and must involve one of the following:

- ◆ marking the route log book
- ◆ giving the rider a ticket
- ◆ using orienteering course type markers
- ◆ or any other way that all competitors will have been informed about before starting the phase.

It is strongly advised to use route-checks (tickets) when different competitors have different routes (e.g. odd numbers or even numbers) on part of a stage between two normal check-points.

Competitors are not intended to stop at route check-points, unless it is to validate their passage.

Nor is it intended to restore an interval between competitors.

G – Finish-line check-point

Competitors are not aware of its position. It can be located at any place along the route. Route log books are handed over definitively to the stewards who inform competitors of the place and time of the vet's inspection that they must attend.

H – End of route check-point

Competitors are aware of this check-point's position. In principle, it is at the entrance to the stables or horse quarters.

If the competitor has not gone through the finish-line check-point, the time that they pass through the end of route check-point will allow us to calculate penalty points that will be added to the penalties for missing the finish-line check-point.

I – Veterinary inspection

- ◆ The first inspection will take place before the start of the event, preferably the day before.
- ◆ It shall in no instance be organised between the competitor marking down the route on the map and the start of the competitor on the POR.
- ◆ The vet checks the condition of the horses at the start, at certain check-points and at the finish. He can decide if the horse needs to be held temporarily or definitively stopped and his decision is final. There is at least one veterinary inspection on the course, it takes place 15 minutes after the arrival of the competitor in the inspection.

After the POR, the vet's inspection takes place around 30 minutes after the return of the competitor to the finish-line check-point. The competitor can be accompanied by at most one groom.

- ◆ The competitor who misses the finish-line check-point must in 30 minutes present his horse at the veterinary inspection after passed the end of route check-point.
- ◆ The final inspection will take place before the Control of Paces phase with the horse shod in preparation for the following phases
- ◆ The Ground Jury and/or the Veterinary Commission can carry out veterinary inspections at any point and at any time during the three phases of the event.

Heart rate monitoring procedure:

- ◆ The heart rate will be monitored before the other tests: the horse is presented to the vet 15 minutes after arriving at the inspection box.
- ◆ Its heart rate must be 64 beats per minute or under.
- ◆ Should the heart rate be over 64 beats/minute, the horse will be held; it may then be represented every 5 minutes, a maximum of 3 more times.
- ◆ If 30 minutes after the arrival, the heart rate is still over 64 beats/minute, the horse is eliminated from the phase.

Lameness examination procedure:

- ◆ This is carried out by trotting the horse in a straight line over a maximum distance of 20 metres, with its head free.
- ◆ Any horse with a distinct gait irregularity on each stride will be eliminated from the event.

Examination procedure concerning the horse's condition and metabolism:

- ◆ This is left entirely up to the vet's judgement.

Art 7.7 – Control of Paces

This phase is intended to show that an outdoor rider can make his horse go calmly in canter and quickly in walk along a given path.

The first test is carried out at canter and the return is carried out at walk.

Horses go through the start line and the finish line at the requested gait.

The phase comprises two tests:

- ◆ Going in a slow canter along a 150 metre-long corridor marked on the ground, on reasonably level ground, 2 to 2.20 metres wide.
- ◆ Then going as quickly as possible at walk along a 150 metres corridor that is identical to the first one, or in the same corridor.

Art 7.8 - PTV

This phase is intended to highlight the high degree of training required for a trail riding horse, confidence, courage, handiness, balance, sure-footedness, as well as the correctness and appropriateness of the rider's aids and his experience in dealing with various natural obstacles.

It is the rider-horse combination that is tested.

The course is a logical succession of obstacles.

A – Walking the course

The course is walked by competitors without the horse.

The time that the course is open and closed for course walking is set by the Jury and displayed.

The first competitor must start at least half an hour after the closing of the course for walking.

B – Start line and finish line

The start and finish lines must be marked with flags, as must the course obstacles.

C - Course

The obstacles are numbered from 1 to 16. 2 metre high flags, red on the right, white on the left and a number on a 20 cm x 20 cm board, placed on the red flag pole, at a height of 1.50 metres.

Horse and rider must both pass between the flags which form an integral part of the obstacle in addition to its other features. (height, width, length, etc.)

They must be tackled by competitors in numerical order.

D – Gaits

The rider is free to choose his gait between the obstacles.

If a rider circles or steps back between the obstacles he will be given 3 penalty points for disobedience by the judge of the following obstacle with a maximum of 3 times, leading to a mark of 0 for this obstacle.

Breaking forward motion or change of gait: This involves moving from one gait to another gait, or stopping the movement that we are currently carrying out.

This irregularity is only penalised on the obstacle itself as soon as the front feet pass between the two obstacle entry flags and until the hind feet pass between the two obstacle exit flags.

For a horse that changes gait on an obstacle with several options: canter, trot, walk, in addition to the resulting penalties in the effectiveness column, the lowest gait will be used in the gait column.

VIII – PENALTIES

Art 8.1 – Elimination

The following will be eliminated from the event:

- ◆ competitors voluntarily retiring or disqualified during one of the phases,
- ◆ competitors whose horse is stopped by the vet,
- ◆ competitors assisted in finding the POR route or who communicate the route,
- ◆ competitors found guilty of using unauthorised substances, according to current regulations in the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) and the annual FITE guidelines,
- ◆ competitors found guilty of using an undeclared communication device during one of the phases (POR, MA, PTV) leading to disqualification of the whole national team that he belongs to: national team and individuals. Only mobile phones declared and sealed in the map room before the start may be in riders' possession.
- ◆ competitors opening the pack and using the communication device, apart from reasons of safety or an accident involving a horse or a rider,
- ◆ competitors who cannot show the equipment listed at the start, unless capable of justifying its use,
- ◆ competitors presenting themselves after the official starting time for one of the phases,
- ◆ competitors not able to present their record book when arriving at a check-point,
- ◆ competitors not crossing the finish line check-point nor the POR end of route check-point,
- ◆ competitors who do not go over the start line or the finish line on the PTV,
- ◆ competitors who walk or try any of the courses on horseback,
- ◆ competitors who is penalised per brutality on 3 difficulties on the PTV.

Art 8.2 – Definitions

A - Refusal

A stop followed immediately by a straight jump, is not penalised.

The pony/horse may make a sidestep, but if he backs up, even by one step, this is considered a refusal. After a refusal, if the competitor tries again or repeats the movement unsuccessfully, or if the pony/horse is presented to the obstacle after backstepping, and if the pony/horse stops and steps back again, this is considered a second refusal, and so on.

B – Run-out

A pony/horse is considered to have run-out if, when faced with the obstacle, he avoids crossing it in such a way that the rider has to present the pony/horse to the obstacle again.

C - Circle

The competitor is penalised for a circle if he/she re-crosses the path taken before crossing an obstacle. Having been penalised for a refusal, run-out or fall, a competitor may retake the original path by completing a volte without incurring a penalty point so that he/she can present the pony/horse to attempt the obstacle a second time.

D – Brutality

During the PTV, the competitor is penalised of 5 points for any brutality.

It can be defined as:

- 1 whipping on the head
- More than 3 whippings behind the leg
- Juniors: 0.9m
- Use the bottom of the leg or the spurs excessively or intensively
- Etc

E – Rider fall

A rider is considered to have fallen when there is physical separation between the pony/horse and the rider.

F – Fall when leading

A rider leading a horse is considered to have fallen when a part of his/her body touches the ground unintentionally in order to keep his/her balance.

G – Horse fall

A pony/horse is considered to have fallen when the shoulder and haunches touch the ground, or lean on a part of an obstacle.

H – Uncorrected course error

A course error is considered to have occurred when the rider:

- ◆ Does not complete the course according to the course plan.
- ◆ Does not go through the obstacles and start and finish lines in the proper order.
- ◆ Goes through an obstacle that is not part of the course or misses out an obstacle.
- ◆ This leads to a zero score on the PTV course

IX – COMPLAINTS**Art 9.1 – Technical queries**

For team competitions, technical queries are formulated by the chef d'équipe. For individual events, they are formulated by the competitor.

To be accepted, any technical query must be lodged with the Ground Jury President:

- ◆ If it concerns a technical problem or a question relating to the regulations, **before the results are displayed**:
 - For POR: within an hour of the last competitor finishing.
 - For PTV and CP: within half an hour of the last competitor finishing the phase in question.
- ◆ If it involves checking scores or their input into the computer system in the various tests for calculating results: at the latest within half an hour of the chefs d'équipe receiving a paper copy of the interim standings.

If, by 8 pm the results of the first day's events cannot be published, the announcement and the lodging of technical queries is delayed until the following morning, before the veterinary inspection.

The Ground Jury's answer may be provided before the end of the competition.

The Ground Jury cannot accept video evidence to settle disputes.

Art 9.2 – Complaints

Only the chef d'équipe can lodge a complaint against a competitor or a horse during an event or against the ranking of the latter or concerning its organisation or its running on his behalf, on behalf of the NETO that he represents and/or on behalf of a competitor who is a member of his team.

- ◆ To be valid, any complaint must be submitted to the Ground Jury President:
 - Before the start of the event, if it concerns the organisation of the competition, the qualification of competitors or horses,
 - At latest half an hour after the announcement/publication of each phase, if it concerns the phase and the definitive placings.
- ◆ The right to lodge a complaint is exclusively reserved for competitors in individual events.
- ◆ Any complaint must be made in writing, accompanied by the sum of 50 Euros which is retained by the FITE in the instance of the complaint proving to be unsubstantiated.
- ◆ No verbal complaints are admitted.
- ◆ Any unforeseen vents outside of the organiser's control cannot be subject to a complaint.

Art 9.3 – Appeals against Ground Jury decisions

The Appeal Jury can decide on appeals against Ground Jury decisions that it is informed of, and must take its decision within a reasonable time frame which will not undermine the rest of the competition. An appeal submission is not valid if it concerns:

- ◆ A case where the Ground Jury must exert its judgement during a competition;
- ◆ elimination of a horse for veterinary reasons;
- ◆ immediate elimination, as provided for in the present rules, during a phase.

Art 9.4 – Reports

The Chefs d'equipe, officials and Organising Committee members must submit a report to the Ground Jury concerning any presumed acts of cruelty as regards to horses or other violations of the Articles and Regulations.

The Ground Jury, having listened to the parties concerned can impose the following:

- ◆ an oral or written warning
- ◆ a 50 to 500 Euro fine
- ◆ disqualification for the current phase or for the rest of the event.

X – PLACINGS / PRIZES

Art 10.1 – Placings

A – World and/or European championship

The winner of the competition is either the competitor or the team that obtained the highest number of points over all phases: POR, MA, PTV.

In the event of equality on the total points, equal placings are split according to the total points on the POR + PTV phases, should there still be equality it is the result of the POR which is preponderant.

A competitor can only be ranked for the event if they have participated without withdrawing or being eliminated and if they have been placed in each of the phases.

A team comprises three or four competitors. The team placings will be calculated on the basis of the sum of the points of the best three members of each team.

A national team of three people can only be placed if its three representatives have been placed in the championship.

In no instance can the marks of a better placed individual rider be substituted for use in the team result.

The individual placings, in which the team members will also figure, will be announced separately.

B – European Cup

In order to be considered for the final ranking, a competitor must have participated in at least 3 events in 2 different countries.

At least two countries must be represented.

The annual number of entries for a competitor is not limited.

The ranking is obtained by adding together the three best results for each competitor.

Points allocation scales

1st 30 points

2nd 25 points

3rd 20 points

4th 19, 5th 18, 6th 17, 7th 16, 8th 15, 9th 14, 10th 13, 11th 12, 12th 11, 13th 10, 14th 9, 15th 8, 16th 7, 17th 6, 18th 5, 19th 4, 20th 3, du 21th to 30th 2 and from 31st 1 point for each competitor in the ranking.

For each competitor, 1 point is added per tranche of 4 riders.

For example:

- For 38 riders ranked: 1st; 30 pts + 10 pts = 40 pts. 2nd; 25 pts + 10 = 35 pts. Etc.....
- For 21 riders ranked: 1st; 30 pts + 6 pts = 36 pts

Allocation of point will be doubled for foreigners competitors.

In the event of equality of one or other of the three first places in the final ranking, competitors will be split as follows:

- ◆ by adding the final rankings of the three chosen events for each competitor,
- ◆ should there still be equality, by adding the rankings for the POR of the three chosen events,
- ◆ should there still be equality, by adding the rankings of the PTV for each of the three chosen events,
- ◆ should there still be equality, by adding the rankings for the Control of Paces for the three chosen events.

C – Nations Cup

In order to be considered for the final ranking, a nation must have participated in at least 3 events in 2 different countries.

The ranking is obtained by adding up the best 3 results of each NETO.

For a team to be ranked, at least two countries must be represented, unless the NETO cannot put together a complete team. In this case, the "guest" nation will be awarded the points of the winner.

The ranking of nations on a competition allows teams to be allocated points according to their results.

1st team: 20 points

2nd team: 14 points

3rd team: 10 points

4th team: 6 points

5th team: 2 points

In the event of equality of points, the winning team for the Nations Cup will be the one that has met the most nations during the sports season.

Art 10.2 – Prize giving

The protocol for European and World championships is appended to the specifications.

The prize giving of the European Cup and Nations Cup will be held on the European Championships and/or the World Championships the next year.