



SKIJORING INTERNATIONAL REGULATION

Applicable from January 1st, 2020



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PREAMBULE

The International Federation for Equestrian Tourism (FITE) is the only entity entitled to regulate Skijoring international competitions.

Depending on provisions adopted by the FITE and on the established specifications, material organisation of each competition is entrusted to a National Equestrian Tourism Organisation (NETO), designated by the FITE.

Accessible to all ponys/horses, Skijoring competitions distinguish the best national team or best pair. Skijoring is an activity combining movements pulled by one or several equids, on snow or other types of fields : grass, sand, racetrack....

A Skijoring test is made of three phases :

Giant slalom,
Special slalom,
Speed test.

I – ORGANISATION

Art 1.1 – Field and equipments

A – Competition field

The field receiving different kind of tests, it must be tamped, delimited and secured by fences or nets.

B – Training field

The field, tamped, delimited and secured by fences or nets, **is made for ponies/horses' warm up and to wait** before departure for tests.

When possible, chicanes and doors will be installed; a flow direction is to be determined by the steward.

Art 1.2 – Veterinary

- ◆ Two vets assisted by a commission, are appointed by the Organising Committee. Veterinary controls must take place in a flat area, in a straight line, on a firm but yielding surface without slopes.
- ◆ Must take place near stables. One or several water points must be provided to competitor.
- ◆ Veterinary inspections can be performed either with a halter or a bridle.
- ◆ Difficult horses and stallions must be presented with a bridle.

Art 1.3 – Timing

The organiser must provide an electrical or manual timer.

Art 1.4 – Secretary

The organiser must provide a person in charge of the secretary.

II – TESTS

Art 2.1 – General

Every Skijoring competitions organised within the FITE framework, individual championships or per team per continent, Open international test, at the initiative of one or several NETOs, etc. must comply with the international regulation.

However, some articles might be modified by organisers, depending on the test, with FITE prior agreement.

Can only be considered as Skijoring international competitions, those registered on FITE's calendar.

The specific regulation of the Open European Cup accepts the national regulations that are compatible with FITE's.

Regulation specificities of the Young Riders tests also appear in this regulation.

A – Senior Open European Championships

From 2020, a Senior Open European Championships will be scheduled every year.

B – Young Rider Open European Championships

From 2020, a Young Rider Open European Championships will be scheduled every year.

III – JURYS

Art 3.1 – Jury composition for European Championships

For these Championships, officials are suggested by FITE sportive commission.

Ground Jury and veterinary commissions' decisions are taken with an overall majority of each of its entities, **President's vote being preponderant.**

Ground Jury President as well as the Technical Delegate must be informed of all incidents occurring during the championships.

A – Ground jury

1 – Composition

- ◆ The Ground Jury President is appointed by FITE Board of directors,
- ◆ Two international Skijoring judges from FITE, one of them among other nations, suggested by the Organising Committee,
- ◆ FITE Technical Delegate, on a consultative basis.

2 – Function

- ◆ It must enforce this regulation,
- ◆ It is responsible for its application by judges and controllers,
- ◆ It must receive and consider requests about technical questioning and complaints,
- ◆ **It must validate each phase's results as well as the final result,**
- ◆ It must assist veterinary checks,
- ◆ It must be present at the start of each phase to check the smooth running of each one of them and the compliance of the equipment used by competitors,
- ◆ If a competitor and/or a horse seems to be physically unable to continue a phase, judges are entitled to stop the competitor by neutralising the timing and they shall inform the ground jury as soon as possible.

Cases not provided are processed by the ground jury. It is competent to take a decision based on common sense and fair-play that **best suits FITE's regulation.**

- ◆ International judges and ringmaster must be retrained and regularly officer on tests, the training protocol can be consulted on <https://fite-net.org/en/>.

3 – Decisions

Its decisions are irrevocable.

B – Ethical commission

- ◆ Occur under the presidency of FITE sports commission President,
- ◆ It is made up with two international judges that are suggested by the President of this commission,
- ◆ FITE Technical Delegate, on a consultative basis,
- ◆ It meets upon request of FITE President, after the competition, in a place and date to be defined,

- ◆ It must decide on events that remained unsolved by the ground jury: doping, cheating, behaviour matters etc,
- ◆ It can call upon and consult ground jury as well as concerned competitors,
- ◆ Expenses linked to this jury meeting, including travel and accommodation, are fully supported by the FITE.

C – Technical Delegate

The Technical Delegate is FITE technical referent.

He is appointed by the Board of directors, upon a proposal of FITE's president.

He works under the authority of FITE's president, to whom he reports his activities, except regulatory specifications.

The Technical Delegate is a qualified officer:

- in equestrian tourism activities and hiking specifically
- in specific equitation and related pedagogy
- in sports practices : organisation, management of competitions

He is backed up by an alternate Technical Delegate whose appointment he suggests to FITE's President and may replace the Technical Delegate if the Technical Delegate is not available.

This decision, taken by FITE's president, is not the responsibility of tests organizers neither NETO's they belong to.

The Technical Delegate is entitled to cooperate with specialized technical officers: tests manager, ringmaster etc. and to foster their training.

- ◆ According to requirements of the specifications and to enable him to assume its responsibilities, on a technical or organisational point of view of the event. The Technical Delegate shall schedule a feasibility visit **of the proposed place, liaise with the applicants' NETO and its designated manager,** before the General assembly as the assembly shall give a definitive agreement on the submitted file,
- ◆ FITE statutory General assembly being held every year in September, within the framework of an international Skijoring test, the **place's feasibility visit for the following year should be scheduled** before the meeting,
- ◆ Technical Delegate's **correlative report should be submitted at least a month before** the General assembly in question,
- ◆ The Technical Delegate report on every potential difficulty faced during the fulfilment of its tasks to **FITE's President,**
- ◆ He checks the organisation during the championships and reports to the Ground Jury President.

D – Ringmaster

The ringmaster is appointed by the Organiser Committee.

E – Timing officials

Operating under the authority of the Ground jury president, they control the different stages.

IV - COMPETITORS

Art 4.1 – Nationality

The National Federation can enter a rider in an international competition if he has the same nationality than the federation in question. A proof of nationality is required. For riders having more than one nationality, they will have to chose when turning 18 years-old their sportive nationality and which federation they are willing to be affiliated to. Riders under 18yo and having dual or multiple citizenships are enable to chose every year which federation they are willing to be affiliated to.

Riders not residing in their home country may not compete in international competitions under the banner of their country of residence.

This regulation is based on FEI general regulation, Article 119-Sport Nationality Status of Athletes.

Art 4.2 – General entry conditions

Open European Championships

According to FITE calendar, each National Equestrian Tourism Organisation (NETO) conveys the following to the Open European Championships Organiser Committee:

- ◆ Its policy intent of participating at least 90 days before the Championship,
 - ◆ The list of its riders at least 15 days before the beginning of the Championship :
- For seniors and young riders :

Six riders, of which four are part of the national team, the two remaining riders only compete as individuals. The organising NETO can enter 6 riders competing in the individual competition.

Art 4.3 – Special conditions for Young Riders

Entered riders must be at least 16 and at most 21 during the calendar year. However, provisions from the home country are enforced.

Art 4.4 – Outfit

A correct equestrian outfit is required.

- Veterinary checks : the person presenting the horse must wear long trousers and closed shoes.

Shoulders must be covered for :

- Opening and closing ceremonies
- All phases
- Veterinary checks

Wearing an individual head protection complying with equestrian or skiing requirements is mandatory for every test.

For every test, skis lengths cannot exceed 1,70m.

A – Slalom test

The choice of skis depends on competitors.

B – Speed test

Alpine ski, without securing strap, are mandatory.

C – Summer competitions

The competitor is free to choose its sliding equipment. Elbow and knee protections are compulsory.

V – HORSES

Art 5.1 – Horses entry requirements

Horses entered in competitions must :

- ◆ Be at least 6 ;
- ◆ Have the appropriate identification document :
 - FEI passport or
 - National passport with a graphical outline, and up-to-date vaccination details according to legislations in the organising country.
- ◆ The Organising Committee must inform the FITE and all NETOs likely to participate to competitions on time, publication of the pre-programme, to avoid any difficulties in respect of the health obligations appearing above, and/or other national obligations.

Art 5.2 – Vaccination procedure

Are mandatory all regulatory vaccinations required by the competent services in each NETO.

Vaccination against equine influenza is required to participate in a competition.

To be considered as vaccinated for equine flu/influenza, a horse must have been subject of:

- a) An initial vaccination composed of 2 anti-flu injections between 21 and 92 days apart
- b) An annual reminder, 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.

A horse can compete after receiving its initial vaccination, i.e. after the second injection.

A horse can't enter a competition if he received an injecting in the last 7 days.

Art 5.3 – Tack and equipment

Tack and equipment used should suit the participants so that their performance may be safely executed, for both pony/horse and competitors, as well as the audience.

It is composed of:

- ◆ Harness,
- ◆ Competitors are free to choose smooth harnesses or shaft sets, with terrets or hame chain, enabling the competitor to be pulled by. The distance between both skis and the pony/horse's hind end should be at least 40cm long,
- ◆ Long reins linked to the **rudder/spreader (?)** where the skier is standing driving his horse, like in driving,
- ◆ **The whip's length held by the leader-skier should not exceed the horse's haunches,**
- ◆ All mouthpieces are allowed.

The presentation of this equipment will be carried out before the competition begins. If the presented equipment does not coincide with the one stipulated in the regulation, or does not meet the safety requirements, the competitor is allowed to proceed to changes so that it may be in compliance with the regulation before the beginning of the test, and must come along again to the President of the jury. Failing this, the competitor is not allowed to start.

The equipment checking may also be executed during one of the tests.

Art 5.4 – Shoeing

The prior veterinary check mentions if the horse has shoes or not.

VI – TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Art 6.1 – Giant slalom

Slalom pickets' colours are considered as flags: the red picket is like a red flag, the blue picket is like a white flag.

- ◆ Number of doors: 8 to 12, aligned or as quincunx, with 1m long separation maximum with respect to the centreline axis,
- ◆ The area is flagged at least 5m before and after the slalom by two red and two white flags,
- ◆ Distance between gates: 10 to 12 meters.

Art 6.2 – Special slalom

The rider can choose in which direction to cross the first door:

- ◆ Numbers of doors : 12 to 15 pickets, in-lign,
- ◆ The area is flagged at least 5m before and after the slalom by a starting and arrival line, made with red flags on the right and white flags on the left,
- ◆ Distance between gates: 4 to 6 meters, at regular intervals.

- ◆ This phase is timed.

Art 6.3 – Speed

Ring length : 300 meters minimum.

Track width : 7 meters minimum.

Distance : 1000 meters and 1500 meters.

If the speed test is conducted in a straight line, the distance will be assessed and validated by the jury President.

VII - PROCEDURE

Art 7.1 – Generality

◆ Each team leader chooses the order riders go in.

The last possibility of modification can take place when team leaders meet, the day before the competition starts.

Individual riders must begin after the departure of the last competitors from the last team. Individual competitors are interleaved so that two competitors from a same country do not follow each other.

◆ Slalom test is conducted in two rounds.

Each round is made up with two phases: the Special slalom goes right after the Giant slalom, with only one timing.

Only one departure will be given per competitor and per round, except if there is a complication due to an outer element.

The competitor should wait for the departure signal to be given before going through the departure line, otherwise he might be disqualified from the test.

The competitor called to begin, must be ready to go within 60 seconds after the call, otherwise he will be the last one competing.

Art 7.2 – Giant slalom

Missing a door without correcting it is eliminatory for the round; in case of a correction, loop or detour, the mistake is only penalised with lost time.

Art 7.3 – Special slalom

Non crossed gates will only be penalised with additional time.

The competitor chooses to push his horse forward within a left or right axis according to the slalom axis, crossing this axis will result in elimination from the round.

Art 7.4 – Speed

The President of the Jury manages the starting point: either stopped behind the line on the ground, either started. Each race can confront two or several competitors simultaneously, taking into account the width of the circuit. If there is no possibility of direct confrontation, the timing makes the ranking.

For stopped departure, competitors are allowed to be helped by someone at the head of the horse, but it must not cause any inconvenience to the other competitors.

False starts are judged by the jury President, and are reported by a signal tone.

The race starts again. If there are two false departures, triggered by the same pair, they will be eliminated from the test.

VIII – PENALTIES

Art 8.1– Elimination

Is eliminated from the test, any competitor:

- ◆ Who voluntarily retires or is disqualified during a phase,
- ◆ Whose horse has been stopped by the veterinary,
- ◆ Convicted of doping, according to the FEI regulation in force,
- ◆ Showing up beyond his official beginning hour for one phase,
- ◆ Inspecting the course or trying it on horseback.

Art 8.2–Definitions

A – Brutality

Can be defined as:

- ~~A whip on~~ **Hitting** the horse's head,
- ~~More than 3 whippings behind the leg,~~
- Suddenly pulling in the mouth with bit or similar actions,
- An excessive or persistent use of ~~lower leg or spurs.~~ **the whip**

B – Rider **Leader-skier falling**

The fall must be noted by a judge to be considered.

A competitor ~~on a horse~~ is considered as having fallen when there is a ~~an unwanted~~ separation between the horse and the rider.

0 grade will be give to the phase in question. The **contestant** is stopped and has to leave the phase ~~walking (on foot)~~. The competitor should have a favourable opinion from the rescue service to be able to remain in the competition.

C – Horse fall

A pony/horse is considered to have fallen when the shoulder and/or haunches touch the ground, or lean on an element from a difficulty.

The circuit is stopped and the rider must leave the course on foot. The horse will require a favourable opinion from the vet services to remain in the competition.

IX – CLAIMS

Art 9.1– Technicals complaints

Team competition shall have their technical interrogations formulated by the team leader.

Individual competition shall have their technical interrogations formulated by the competitor.

To be considered, any technical interrogation must be submitted to the Ground jury president:

- ◆ If concerning a technical issue or the regulation, it must be done before the publication of the results: at the latest half an hour following the last competitor's arrival of the phase in question.
- ◆ If concerning the verification of the ratings or data entry about phases for the results calculation: at the latest half an hour after the provisional results have been given to team-leaders.

If at 8 p.m. results cannot be communicated, the announcement of the results will be postponed to the next morning.

Ground jury answer can be given before the end of the competition.

Ground jury cannot take into account video support to adjudicate on cases of dispute.

Art 9.2– Complaints

- ◆ Only the team leader/**chef d'équipe** can file a complaint against a competitor or a horse during a phase or trial or against the ranking of the latter or concerning its organisation or its execution, on its behalf, on behalf of the NETO he represents and/or on behalf of a competitor who is a member of his team.

- ◆ To be valid, a complaint must be submitted to the Ground Jury President:

– **Before the start of the event, if it concerns the competition organisation, the qualification of competitors or horses,**

– **At the latest half an hour after** the announcement/publication of each phase and/or the definitive ranking.

- ◆ The right to complaint belongs exclusively to individual competitors.

- ◆ Any complaint must be written and accompanied by the amount of 50 Euros which is retained by the FITE if the complaint is rejected.
- ◆ No verbal complaint is admitted.
- ◆ Any fortuitous events outside of the organiser's control cannot be a subject of complaint.

Art 9.3– Reports

The team leaders, officials and Organising Committee members must submit a report to the Ground Jury concerning any presumed acts of cruelty towards horses or other violations of the Articles and Regulations. The Ground jury that have listened to the concerned parties, may impose:

- ◆ An oral or written warning,
- ◆ A fine from 50 to 500 euros,
- ◆ Disqualification for the current phase or for the rest of the event.

X – RANKING / PRIZES

Art 10.1– Ranking

A – European Championships

The winner of the championships is the competitor/team that scored the most points over all the phases competed : Giant slalom, Special slalom, Speed.

In case of a tie, the winner will be named according to the number of points from Special and Giant slaloms phases.

A competitor can only be ranked for the event if he has participated without giving up or being eliminated and if he has been placed in each of the phases.

A team is composed of three or four competitors. The sum of the three best competitor's performance of each team will be used for the team ranking.

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

In no way, the result of an individual competitor in a better position than a member of his team can be substituted for use in the team result.

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

Art 10.2 – Award ceremony

The protocole for European Championships is annexed to the specifications.