



INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN TRAIL REGULATION

Applicable from January 1st 2026



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PREAMBLE

The Fédération Internationale de Tourisme Equestre is the sole international organisation with the authority to govern MOUNTAIN TRAIL 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.

MOUNTAIN TRAIL 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 MOUNTAIN TRAIL competition comprises four phases:

- ◆ In-Hand Phase
- ◆ Ridden Phase
- ◆ Timed & Ridden with Neck Rope Extreme Mountain Phase
- ◆ Timed & In-Hand Extreme Mountain Phase

I - ORGANISATION

Art 1.1 – Field and equipment

The organising committee must provide the following:

- ◆ Stables,
- ◆ A veterinary inspection area,
- ◆ One ou several HorsePark representing no apparent danger, in line with technical requirements.

Outdoors, the terrain should be as natural as possible (wood, water, rock, etc.), making use of its relief.

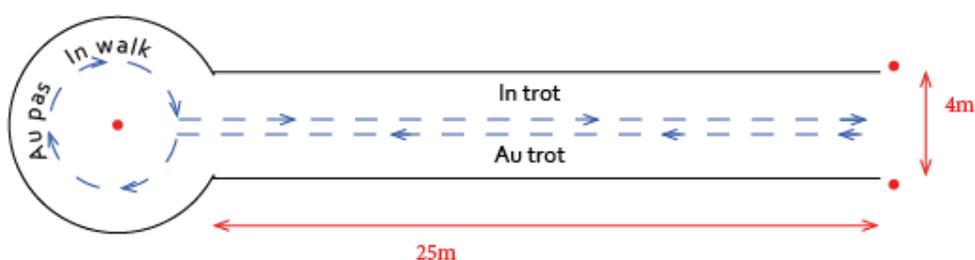
The surface can be sand or grass if the soil is not too hard and does not cause slipping.

- ◆ A warm-up arena large enough to allow several competitors to warm-up at the same time. One or more mobile obstacles may be made available to competitors.
- ◆ This list is not exhaustive and may be supplemented by a specification pertaining to a single competition.

NB: If the course designers speak neither French nor English, the organizers must provide an interpreter.

Art 1.2 – Vets

- ◆ Two vets are appointed by the organising committee.
- ◆ Veterinary inspections must take place in a flat area, on a firm, soft ground with no slopes.
- ◆ They must be located near the stables. One or more watering points must be available for the horse.
- ◆ Presenting for a veterinary inspection can be done either with a bridle or halter.
- ◆ Difficult horses and stallions must be presented with a bridle.



Art 1.3 – Timekeeper

An official timekeeper is provided by the organising committee, placed under the authority of the president of the jury, he officiates on the different phases:

- ◆ Extreme Mountain tests.

Art 1.4 – Rescue service

The organiser defines the emergency plan for his event according to:

- ◆ The parameters specific to his event and in particular the response times of public emergency services,
- ◆ The simultaneous and maximum number of public and competitors attending his event,
- ◆ The recommendations and regulatory obligations of its NETO.

II – COMPETITIONS

Art 2.1 – Generalities

All MOUNTAIN TRAIL organised by the FITE must comply with the international rules and provide to judges and course designers official FITE documents.

However, certain articles may be modified by organisers, according to the competition, with the formal agreement of the FITE. Competitions considered as international MOUNTAIN TRAIL competitions are those on FITE event calendar.

Specific regulation for the international circuit accepts different national rules that are compatible with FITE's.

These regulations also encompass the specific rules for competitions involving Young.

International competitions

- ◆ This is intended to bring together MOUNTAIN TRAIL riders throughout the sports season in order to encourage exchange of techniques and to bring competitors closer together.
- ◆ NETOs whose MOUNTAIN TRAIL competition rules are compatible with the FITE rules are authorised to organise these competitions.
- ◆ Each NETO can propose MOUNTAIN TRAIL competitions to be included to the FITE event schedule.
- ◆ After having being validated by the NETO, entries must be sent to the organiser on FITE entry forms.

III – JURIES

Art 3.1 – Composition des jurys pour les championnats d'Europe

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

The jury decisions are taken in consultation, with the jury president having the deciding vote.

The jury president and the technical delegate must be informed of any incidents occurring during the competition.

A – The jury

1 – Members

- ◆ The president of the jury is proposed by the organizer and validated by the FITE Board of directors,
- ◆ Two international MOUNTAIN TRAIL judges from the FITE of different nationalities, suggested 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 technical queries and appeals,
- ◆ It must validate the results of each phase and of the final result.
- ◆ It must be present during veterinary checks,
- ◆ It must be present at the start of each phase to check the smooth running and the conformity of the equipment used by the competitors.

Cases not appearing in this list are addressed by the jury. The jury is competent to take decisions based on common sense and fair play, ensuring that all decisions are compatible with the spirit of the FITE regulation.

3 – Its decisions

They are irrevocable.

B – Ethical commission

- ◆ Presided over by the president of the FITE sport committee.
- ◆ It also comprises two international judges put forward by the president of this committee.
- ◆ The FITE technical delegate, in a consultative role.
- ◆ It 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 jury has failed to resolve: in cases of doping, cheating, behaviour, etc.
- ◆ It may call upon and consult judges and 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 FITE's technical point of reference.

He is designated by the Board of directors, 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 equestrian tourism activities and specifically in hiking,
- in specific riding techniques and the relevant teaching techniques,
- in sports events: organising and preparing competitions.

He is backed up by an alternate technical delegate that is proposed for appointment to the FITE president and may replace him, if he is not available.

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

The technical delegate may be assisted by specialist officers: phase managers, course designers, etc... and may encourage training for them.

- ◆ Taking into account the requirements of the specifications and to enable him to be in a position to assume his responsibilities, both in technical terms and in terms of the general organization of the event, the technical delegate is required to carry out, in liaison with the candidate NETO and his designated manager, a feasibility visit to the proposed site, before the general assembly called upon to give final approval to the dossier presented to it.
- ◆ As the statutory general assembly of the FITE is held each year, in the context of an international championship, the feasibility visit of the proposed site for the following year must have taken place prior to this meeting.
- ◆ The correlative report of the technical delegate is sent to the FITE president at least one month before the date of the general assembly concerned.
- ◆ The technical delegate reports to the FITE president on any difficulties that may be encountered in the accomplishment of his mission.
- ◆ He controls the organization during the championship and reports to the president of the jury.

D – Course designer

The course designer, approved by the FITE, establishes the in-hand and ridden courses in reference to the categories of the competitions, in respect of safety and animal welfare. He has authority over the controllers at his disposal for the organization of the controls he sets up. He must be consulted when an incident occurs on the course.

E – The verification

The verification validates the exact final course, under the same conditions as those available to the competitors. It is carried out in conjunction with the jury president, the judges and the technical delegate.

No changes will be made after validation.

F – Judges

Judges are nominated and officiate under the responsibility of their respective ONTE.

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

If a competitor and / or a horse seem physically unable to continue a phase, the judges are entitled to temporarily stop the competitor by neutralizing the time and must inform the jury as soon as possible.

G – Paddock Steward

1. An official warm-up arena is provided near the start of each phase.
The role of the paddock steward is to ensure safety and to check the conformity of the equipment of the horse and rider before the start of each phase.
2. Before being allowed to enter the warm-up arena paddock, the horse/rider must present themselves to the steward so that he can check their equipment: adjustment of the noseband, etc.
3. As long as the equipment is judged incomplete or not in conformity by the Paddock steward, the horse/rider cannot access the warm-up arena or take the start of a phase.
4. In order to ensure the smooth running of the warm-up and the safety of all, he will also regulate the access to the warm-up:
 - a) Maximum 1 helper per couple (team leader, coach or groom), including at the start of the POR,
 - b) If necessary, he may limit the number of horses present,

- c) The public is not allowed at the warm-up.
5. This function is carried out by an international judge, or failing that by a national judge trained in the FITE rules.

IV - COMPETITORS

Art 4.1 – Nationality

The National Federation (NETO) may select a rider in the European or World Championships if he has the same nationality as the said federation. Proof of nationality may be required.

For riders with more than one nationality, they will be asked at the age of 18, to decide what their "sports nationality" will be and therefore which federation they wish to be affiliated to. Riders under the age of 18 and with more than one nationality can choose each year which federation they wish to be affiliated to.

For the international competitions, riders not residing in their home country may compete in international competitions under the flag of their country of residence if they have the license of this country.

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

Art 4.2 – General entry conditions

International competitions

According to the schedule defined by FITE, each National Equestrian Tourism Organisation (NETO) should send the following to the organiser of a 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:

For Seniors and Youngs: six riders, three or four of whom will make up the national team, with the two additional riders competing only as individuals. The organizing NETO may enter six additional riders competing only individually, for a total of 12 riders.

Art 4.3 – Specific conditions for Seniors

Riders taking part in competitions must be 16 years of age within the calendar year. However, the regulations in force in the host country apply.

Art 4.4 – Specific conditions for Youngs

Riders participating in competitions must be aged at least 12 years old and at most 18 years old in the calendar year. However, any other rules in force in the host country are applied as a priority.

Art 4.5 – Clothing

Correct clothing is required.

For all competitions, competitors must wear attire appropriate for the type of riding being performed. For the vet checks, the person presenting the horse must wear pants and closed shoes.

The shoulders must be covered for:

- ◆ Opening and closing ceremonies,
- ◆ Phases,
- ◆ Vet checks.

Clothing rules also applies on the warm-up area.

All whips and lunge whip are prohibited in both in-hand and in-saddle competitions, with the exception of the dressage whip, which is permitted for mounted competitions for riders riding side-saddle in traditional dress.

The jury reserves the right to prevent any competitor from starting if their equipment is deemed insufficient or unsuitable.

V – HORSES

Art 5.1 – Requirements for the participation of horses

Horses participating in the competitions must:

- ◆ Be at least 5 years old
- ◆ Have the appropriate identification document
 - FEI passport or
 - equine passport with a graphical outline, and up-to-date vaccination details according to legislation in the host country.
- ◆ Wear a headband number throughout the competition as soon as they leave the stall.

Equines of unknown origin, or unconfirmed origin, may compete in all competitions.

A young person may not exhibit a stallion in any event. Stallions may only be exhibited by a senior.

The organizing committee must inform the FITE and all NETOs likely to take part in the competitions in good time, of the preliminary program, health requirements and/or other national obligations.

Art 5.2 –Vaccination procedure

It complies with FEI standards.

All regulatory vaccinations required by the competent services in each NETO are mandatory.

Vaccination against equine influenza is required to enter a competition.

To be considered vaccinated against equine flu, a horse must have been administered:

1. Primary course:
 - 1st vaccination, day 0 (March 1st),
 - 2nd vaccination day + 21 to 92 days (April 1st),
2. First booster
 - Within 7 months of the 2nd vaccination of the Primary Course (October 1st),
3. Subsequent boosters
 - Minimum: within one year of previous booster vaccination (before October 1st of the following year).

Horses that have received only the first vaccination of the primary course are not allowed to compete or enter the FEI stables.

Horses that have received the primary course may compete.

The last vaccination must be administered at least 7 days before arrival at the competition venue.

Horses that received their primary course prior to 2005 are exempt from the requirement for a first booster within 7 months. Subsequent boosters must be administered at intervals of no more than 1 calendar year after the primary vaccination.

Horses must have been vaccinated within 6 months + 21 days prior to their arrival at the event.

Art 5.3 – Sanctions for failure to vaccinate

Penalties may be given by the jury to owners of horses that do not comply with FEI vaccination requirements.

Owners may be issued with a fine, ineligibility to compete or disqualification from the competition.

Below is a complete list of penalties found in **Appendix VI of the FEI Veterinary Rules.**

- No evidence of Equine Influenza vaccination in passport: horse prohibited,
- Vaccination record not up to date, missing information required from the horse's veterinarian:
Warning: +100 euros,
- Failure to update the passport within 30 days of a warning for a vaccination record not up to date: 500 euros each time the horse is presented,
- Last vaccination against Equine Influenza administered within 7 days of the horse's arrival at the event: horse prohibited,
- Failure to give the first booster against equine influenza within 7 months of the second vaccination of the primary vaccination. Horses vaccinated prior to 2005 are exempted: warning and repeat vaccination protocol with primo, etc.
- Failure to complete primary vaccination again, after warning for first booster being incorrect: Horse prohibited,
- Failure to give booster vaccinations against Equine Influenza at less than 12-month intervals: Horse prohibited and the primo is to be repeated,
- Failure to give the last vaccination against Equine Influenza within 6 month +21 days of the Horse's arrival at the event (<1 week): Warning and 200 euros,
- Failure to give the last vaccination against Equine Influenza within 6 month +21 days of the Horse's arrival at the Event (<2 week): Warning and 300 euros,
- Failure to give the last vaccination against Equine Influenza within 6 month +21 days of the Horse's arrival at the Event (<4 weeks): Warning and 400 euros,
- Failure to give the last vaccination against Equine Influenza within 6 month +21 days of the Horse's arrival at the Event (>4 weeks): Horse banned.

Art 5.4 - Vet inspection

- ◆ The inspection will take place the day before the start of the competition.
- ◆ A re-inspection may be requested at any stage by a veterinary or the jury.
- ◆ The Jury and/or Veterinary Commission may conduct veterinary inspections at any place and time during the course of the four phases of the competition and decide to stop of a horse they deem unfit to continue the competition.

Lameness examination procedure:

- ◆ This is carried out by trotting the horse in a straight line for a distance of at least 25 meters, with its head free.
- ◆ Any horse with a distinct gait irregularity on each stride will be eliminated from the competition.

Examination procedure concerning the horse's condition and metabolism:

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

Art 5.5 – Tack and equipment

The rules regarding tack also apply in the warm-up area.

Protective gear is permitted for all competitions. The horse/pony must be equipped in accordance with the discipline being performed.

Please refer to the specific rules for each equestrian discipline, with the exceptions listed below:

In-hand:

- ◆ Nylon, leather halter or horse neck rope correctly fitted
- ◆ 3,50 to 4 m lunge

Ridden:

- ◆ Under all circumstances, the tack must be correctly fitted. Lunging system are prohibited.
- ◆ Horse neck rope is allowed.

The permitted mouthpieces are:

- ◆ All snaffle bits i.e. no elevator bit or without a leverage effect and with smooth mouthpiece made of metal, plastic, rubber or leather.
- ◆ The western curb bit requires the use of a curb chain that is at least 13 mm wide. It rests flat under the pony/horse's jaw. It can be made of leather or metal.
- ◆ When a curb chain is used with a snaffle bit, it must be made of leather or nylon.
- ◆ Bit converter is allowed.
- ◆ Halter, bitless, side pull, etc.
- ◆ Bosal (western hackamore), ride with two hands is mandatory.

The mouthpieces are prohibited:

- ◆ All with a leverage effect i.e. bits with rings that slide in the mouthpiece such as the Pessoa or elevator bit
- ◆ All bits with twist mouthpiece
- ◆ Hackamores
- ◆ Ear bonnet and/or nose protector are allowed during all tests.
- ◆ Masks are prohibited.

A judge who observes a possible injury, traces of fresh blood on the lips, in the mouth or on the flanks, and/or in the test of any irregularity, must notify one of the jury members. A trace of blood from an insect bite is not a disqualifying factor.

A – Adjusting the noseband

The noseband is checked using the FEI Noseband Measuring Device.

B – Adjusting the curb chain

It must respect an angle of 45 degrees between the bridle axis / horse's mouth and the horse's cheek when adjusting the reins.

Art 5.4 – Shoeing

Horses that are usually unshod may compete unshod.

Horses with hipposandals can start in the other phases with or without shoes.

VI – TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Art 6.1- The course

Preferably outdoors, the layout of the course is at the discretion of the course designer. Where possible, the course will utilise the topography of the terrain with regard to the obstacles and their placement. Safety on the course must take into account the different levels of horse/pony/rider pairs and must be able to test their skills. Safety is a paramount consideration. The obstacles must be constructed from safe materials using the guidelines given in the technical data sheets.

A course consists of 8 to 16 obstacles, chosen from the following lists. At least 6 obstacles must be chosen from the list of 23 mandatory obstacles.

Mandatory obstacles:

- 1.** Water box
- 2.** Turn around box
- 3.** Rock obstacle
- 4.** Cross buck
- 5.** Ladder
- 6.** Fan
- 7.** Maze
- 8.** Scramble
- 9.** Side pass above a trunk or not
- 10.** Small bridge
- 11.** Teeter totter
- 12.** Rolling bridge
- 13.** Suspension bridge
- 14.** Gate
- 15.** Balance beam
- 16.** Back through
- 17.** Raised back through
- 18.** Curtain
- 19.** Pinwheel
- 20.** Texas Two Step
- 21.** Trench
- 22.** Logs
- 23.** Raised logs

Optional obstacles:

- 1.** Steer Head Roping
- 2.** Cake Box
- 3.** Compass
- 4.** Jump up
- 5.** Step into the large pond, waterway, water ditch
- 6.** Send around rock in pond
- 7.** Roller Coaster Beam
- 8.** Reverse Texas Two Step
- 9.** Top hat
- 10.** Ground tie
- 11.** Stair steps
- 12.** Dismount and mount on rock
- 13.** Small puddle
- 14.** Trestle bridge
- 15.** High balance beam
- 16.** 45° Balance Beam
- 17.** Snake
- 18.** Drag Hide or Log
- 19.** Trot poles
- 20.** Roof
- 21.** Turtle
- 22.** Cross Log

Art 6.2 - Scoring

A – In-hand and ridden phases

The objective is to observe a horse in motion, moving forward towards the obstacles, in its natural gait, in accordance with its breed and conformation.

Some horses will have longer strides or a faster pace towards the obstacles and will therefore be quicker than others.

The course must be completed at a natural, relaxed pace without rushing. The horse must maintain a natural, steady pace.

An adjustment of the stride, where necessary, will not be considered as a breaking forward motion. Each obstacle is assigned a score. Points and half points are used.

A - Scoring: For each obstacle, the judge awards a score from 0 to 10 based on how the pair approached the obstacle, according to:

- Attitude,
- Impulsion,
- Precision,
- Entry,
- Run,
- And the exit of the obstacle.

In accordance with the table below.

OBSTACLE SCORING TABLE - SCORE FROM 0 TO 10	
0	Obstacle refused (3 refusals) obstacle approached in the reverse direction The pace imposed for the obstacle is incorrect The horse is completely out of the obstacle or fallen device
1-3	Very unsatisfactory obstacle
4-5	Unsatisfactory obstacle
6 -7	Average obstacle
8	Good obstacle
9	Very Good obstacle
10	Excellent obstacle

B - Penalty:

Then deduction of penalties as follows:

– 0,5 POINT

- Light contact
- Slightly off-centre
- Slightly not straight
- Minor change of pace
- Hesitation

– 1 POINT

- Off centre
- Not straight
- Hesitation exceeding 3 seconds
- Delay in executing the requested pace
- Step over a space
- One step during mounting, dismounting (mounting block) or the immobility
- Change of rhythm
- Breaking forward motion at walk or at trot over less than two strides
- Incorrect canter over less than two strides
- 1 point per foot each time a foot comes out of the obstacle
- Stumble

– 2 POINTS

- For each refusal, with a maximum of 2 refusals
- Jump in the obstacle at the entrance or exit
- Entering or exiting the obstacle from a location not indicated
- Breaking forward motion over more than two strides
- Avoid the entrance to the obstacle
- Place one foot outside the obstacle
- Overturned or causes an element of the obstacle to fall off
- 2 or 3 steps during
 - Mounting or dismounting (mounting block)
 - The immobility
- When the transition exceeds two strides or trots, during a lead change.

– 5 POINTS

- Step down from the obstacle with two or more feet
- Manoeuvre not performed or poorly performed, or incorrect manoeuvre (ex: rein back, turn around, halt, or other requested manoeuvres)
- Drop the object to be moved from one point to another
- Drop the lunge during an in-hand test
- Drop the lunge executing the 'gate' or 'Drag Hide or Log'.
- Remove the hand from the gate while running it
- Rearing, kick, bit, bucking, serious disobedience
- Incorrect pace between obstacles
- Uncontrolled rein back
- 4 steps or more during :
 - Mounting or dismounting (mounting block)
 - The immobility
- Any use of the lunge to encourage or move the horse during in-hand test
- Voluntary contact with the horse
- The horse does not obey the rider
- Horse that is overly reactive or frightened
- Incorrect gallop over more than two strides and/or failure to change gallop when asked to do so
- Adding a manoeuvre
- Step onto the obstacle

C - Crossing obstacles in-hand

- The horse/pony must move at the same pace as the competitor.
- A 3,50 to 4 m lunge must be used.
- The competitor may send or direct the horse/pony through the obstacle, unless otherwise specified during walking the course.

The passage zone on an obstacle may vary depending on the position of the competitor in relation to their horse.

The crossing of an obstacle must be centred:

Case 1: If the horse and the competitor are side by side, the centre is between the two.

Case 2: If the horse crosses the obstacle alone or behind the competitor, it must be positioned in line with the obstacle.

Competitors are not permitted to step onto the obstacles or walk around them to perform manoeuvres such as turn around (for example).

D – Crossing obstacles ridden

Each obstacle must be approached, crossed and exited in a centred manner, calmly and at a steady pace, without breaking forward motion or rushing.

E – Manoeuvres

The manoeuvre represents the exercise(s) asked to be performed on an obstacle.

F - Horsemanship score

The Horsemanship score, from 0 to 5 points, is based on the overall presentation of appropriate working equipment, correct use of hands, appropriate use of aids, appropriate behaviour between obstacles, appropriate behaviour during immobility and correct equipment.

For English or Western riding, the reins can be held with one or both hands, the hands can be changed, and the reins can be adjusted gently to cross the obstacle.

Art 6.4 - Timed & Ridden with Neck Rope Extreme Mountain Phase

The result is the total of the points obtained on each obstacle.

The course is completed within a time limit set by the course designer. The competitor is notified when the time limit has expired.

Any manoeuvres performed after the time limit has expired are not counted.

Competitor's choice

The rider chooses his course and his obstacles. The scoring system used is shown in the table below. The start and end of the phase are indicated to the competitor by the sound of a bell. 'You have 5 minutes to demonstrate your skill by safely crossing the obstacles'.

If a horse fails to complete its manoeuvre, the obstacle does not count for the score. Each obstacle (and manoeuvre) has a value that is assigned at the start of the phase.

Only one manoeuvre may be performed on the obstacle. The same obstacle may be used a maximum of two times during the phase. To use an obstacle a second time, the competitor must cross two intermediate obstacles.

A - Obstacle scoring

Points calculation:

- Category x manoeuvre (+ Bonus points) = obstacle score **(if manoeuvre successful)**

Example: 180 Turn around on the Teeter totter et rein back exit = $3 \times 1,5 + 1 = 5,5$ pts

Total for the test: sum of all scores

<p>Category 1: Coeff 0,5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rock obstacle - Cross buck - Fan - Gate - Raised logs - Logs - Pond - Small puddle - Cross Log 	<p>Category 2: Coeff 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Turn around box large model - Pinwheel - Trench - Scramble - Side pass - Jump up - Send around rock in pond - Immobility - Trot poles - Drag Hide or Log - Ladder - Curtain 	<p>Category 3: Coeff 1,5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small bridge - 1m20 Teeter totter - Snake - Stair steps - Dismount and mount on rock - Trestle bridge - Suspension bridge - Steer Head Roping - Reverse Texas Two Step - Rolling bridge - Compass - Turtle - Cake Box
<p>Category 4: Coeff 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water box - Turn around box small model - Maze - 1m Teeter totter - Back through - Raised back through - Texas Two Step - Roof 	<p>Category 5: Coeff 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Balance beam - High balance beam - Roller Coaster Beam - 45° Balance Beam - Top hat 	
<p>Manoeuvres:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crossing 1 pts - Halt 1,5 pts - Rein back/side pass 2pts - Turn around 2,5 pts - 180 Turn around 3 pts - 270 Turn around 3,5 pts - 360 Turn around 4 pts 	<p>Bonus points +1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Side pass entry - Side pass exit - Rein back entry - Rein back exit - 180 Turn around entry 	

Art 6.5 - Ranking

The winner of the test is the competitor or team that scores the most points.

In the event of a tie for the top three places, competitors will be ranked according to their horsemanship score.

In the event of a further tie, riders will be ranked according to their scores in the timed & ridden with neck rope or bitless phase, then according to their scores in the in-hand phase, then according to their scores in the ridden phase, and finally according to their scores in the timed in-hand phase.

Art 7.1 – Times

The order of phases is defined by the organising committee and validated by the technical delegate. At latest, the list of competitors' start times for the four phases will be communicated on the evening before the first phase.

At the start of each phase and at the veterinary visits, the competitor may be accompanied by the team leader or a groom (one person only).

The organizer may decide that the starting order may be in reverse order of the provisional ranking as the competition progresses.

Art 7.2 – Starting order draw

For the World or European championships, the starting order draw for teams is carried out during the Board of directors 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 team leader decides on the order in which his riders will compete.

The last possibility for modifying this is during the team leaders meeting on the day before the start of the test.

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.

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 as well as on the headpiece of the horse's bridle.

Art 7.5 – Course plan

A detailed plan of the course is displayed.

The plan for each phase must be put in place at least 1 hour before the official walking the course.

It alone shall be considered valid in the event of a complaint.

Any last-minute changes made due to the condition of the course or any other circumstances must be displayed on the official plan one hour before the first competitor starts.

The course cannot be changed once the first competitor has started.

If a case of force majeure arises (weather event, destruction of several devices, etc.), the president of the jury may suspend the phase to allow for the restoration of the course and obstacles; if this cannot be achieved, the obstacle may be cancelled, in which case its score will not be counted.

The obstacles are numbered on the course plan, not at the Horse Park.

Art 7.3 - Walking the course

The course can be walked by competitors to learn the route without their horse.

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

The course will be closed for walking half an hour before the first competitor starts.

Technical data sheets may be consulted on the FITE website www.fite-net.org.

For in-hand tests, the pace can only be walk or trot, regardless of level. In-hand and ridden; specific paces unique to certain breeds cannot be penalised (e.g. tölt, fox trot, etc.).

Art 8.1– Elimination

A – During a phase

Any competitor shall be eliminated if:

- ◆ Shows up later than the official start time,
- ◆ Starts before being authorised to do so by the jury,
- ◆ Waits more than one minute after the bell has rung,
- ◆ Exits the course during the run,
- ◆ Crosses an obstacle when he has entered on track,
- ◆ Course error, including omission or incorrect sequence of obstacles
- ◆ Fall of the horse or rider, or inability to complete the course due to a problem with the reins and/or equipment falling off
- ◆ Gives up,
- ◆ Has received 2 warnings
- ◆ Horse falls or falls from the horse,
- ◆ Has exterior help from team leader,
- ◆ Walks the course or tries the course on horseback.

B – During the test

Any competitor shall be eliminated if:

- ◆ Is found guilty of using unauthorised substances, according to current regulations in the International Equestrian Federation (FEI),
- ◆ Intentionally or unintentionally inflicts unnecessary suffering or discomfort on an animal, horse or bovine animal (FEI),
- ◆ Any horse that is bleeding on the flank(s), in the mouth or nose, or has marks indicating excessive use of the whip or spur,
- ◆ Horse is stopped by the vet and/or the jury,
- ◆ For injuries or mistreatment of horses,
- ◆ Misconduct,
- ◆ Horse that the jury deems unfit to continue the competition.

Art 8.2– Definitions

A – Run-out

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

B – Brutality

During the phases, a competitor will receive a 10-point penalty on their total phase score for any instance of brutality.

It can be defined as:

- Excessive use of spurs
- Hurting the horse's mouth with sudden or violent movements of the reins/bit,
- An excessive or persistent use of lower leg or spurs,
- Etc.

C – Rider fall

The fall must be seen by a judge to be taken into account.

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

A zero score will be applied to the whole phase.

The rider is stopped and must leave the phase on foot. The competitor must have a favourable opinion from the medical services to be able to continue the competition.

D – Loss of balance by a rider on foot

A rider leading a horse is considered to have lost their balance on foot when a part of his body touches the ground in order to keep his balance. It will be noted as a dangerous situation.

E – Horse fall

A pony/horse is considered to have fallen when the shoulder and/or haunches touch the ground, or are stuck/grazed a part of an exercise.

The rider is stopped and must leave the phase on foot. The horse must have a favourable opinion from the veterinary services to be able to continue the competition, and/or before leaving the competition.

F – 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 perform the exercises or cross the start and finish lines, in the order or direction indicated,
- ◆ Goes through an exercise that is not part of the course or accidentally misses out an exercise,
- ◆ Who does not cross the line of departure or arrival
- ◆ It results in a score of -18.

IX – COMPLAINTS

Art 9.1–Technical queries

Technical queries should be submitted by the team leader.

Team leaders are notified of the posting of results.

To be accepted, any technical query must be lodged with the jury president:

- ◆ If it concerns a technical problem or a question relating to the regulations, before the results are displayed within an hour of the last competitor finishing.
- ◆ If it concerns the verification of marks or their digital entry for the tests used to calculate results must be submitted no later than 30 minutes after the results have been posted.

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

The jury cannot accept video evidence to settle disputes.

Art 9.2– Complaints

Only the team leader can lodge a complaint against a competitor or a horse during a test 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 jury president:
 - Before the start of the test, 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 ranking.
- ◆ The right to lodge a complaint is exclusively reserved for competitors in individual tests.

- ◆ Any complaint must be made in writing, accompanied by the sum of 50 Euros which is retained by FITE in the instance of the complaint proving to be unsubstantiated.
- ◆ No verbal complaints are admitted.
- ◆ Any unforeseen events outside of the organiser's control cannot be subject to a complaint.

Art 9.3– Reports

The team leaders, officials and organising committee members must submit a report to the jury concerning any presumed acts of cruelty as regards to horses or other violations of the statutes and regulations.

The 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 test.

X – RANKING / PRIZES

Art 10.1 – Coefficient per phase

A – Seniors and Youngs

A coefficient is applied according to the table below.

IN-HAND PHASE	RIDDEN PHASE	TIMED & RIDDEN WITH NECK ROPE EXTREME MOUNTAIN PHASE (Bitless for Youngs)	TIMED & IN-HAND EXTREME MOUNTAIN PHASE
1	1	1	1

Art 10.2– Ranking

A – Generalities

A rider eliminated in one phase, except in cases of mistreatment, is ranked with a score of 0 for that phase. They may compete in the other phases. They may be ranked ahead of a competitor who has participated in all four phases without elimination.

Under no circumstances may the result of an individual competitor who is better placed than a member of his or her team be used in the team ranking.

The individual ranking, which will also include team members, will be announced separately.

B – Teams - Seniors and Youngs

A team comprises three or four competitors.

The team rankings 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.

C – Allocation of points

1st 0 point

2nd 2 points

3rd 3 points

4th 4, 5th 5, 6th 6, 7th 7, 8th 8, 9th 9, 10th 10, etc...

For a rider eliminated in a phase, number of riders + 5 points.

European Cup

The competitor or team with the lowest number of points across all four phases is declared the winner of the competition.

In the event of a tie in total points, the tie will be broken based on the total points from the in-hand and ridden phases. If there is still a tie, the result of the ridden Mountain Trail test will be decisive.

A competitor can only be ranked in the event if they have participated without withdrawing or being eliminated, and have obtained a ranking in each of the phases.

1. Seniors and Youngs

A team comprises three or four competitors.

The team rankings 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.

Under no circumstances may the result of an individual competitor who is better placed than a member of his or her team be used in the team ranking.

The individual ranking, which will also include team members, will be announced separately.

A European Championship ranking is taken into account if a minimum of three teams from three different nations are entered.

Art 10.3 – Prize giving

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

The prize giving of the European cup will be held on the European championships and/or the World championships in the following year.