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Fédération Française d'Équitation
FFE Haut Niveau

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Mr Alex McLin
Secretary General
Fédération Equestre Internationale
Avenue Mon Repos, 24
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RE : Transitional Procedure for Endurance 2008 / 2009

Dear Alex,

First of all, I would like to reassert that we are satisfied with the new FEI endurance rules and that problems come from the transitional measures adopted for the year 2009.

It appears that, due to these transitional measures, we have come to a desperate situation where riders will lose in 2009 their qualifications acquired in 2008.

For example, in 2008 a rider / horse who had completed 119 km (CEI 2* standard) was automatically qualified for 160 km. It means that he/she could go directly for a qualifying 160 km and then the Championships (160 km).

In 2009, with the transitional procedures the same **looses**

- ALL qualification acquired at national level, whatever the distance was. This means that if a rider/horse completed a national race last year on a longer distance, he/she will have to go back to a CEI 1*, then 2* then 160 km and then the championship of the year ;

- OR if the qualification was acquired in a 2008 CEI 2*, for instance 119 km which was the French distance for such label, in 2009 he/she will have to go for an additional 130km. This means, for instance, 130km in March, 160km in June and 160 km again in September.

From a **horse welfare** point of view, this appears totally non productive and will probably be considered so by many in the countries who meet the same difficulties. Unless we want to leave all of them out in 2009 and keep only the elder ones !

The problems come from the fact that the FEI takes the label in consideration whereas all labels lose 1 star in 2009.

The 2008 2* are now considered as 2009 1* and direct qualification to CEI 2 ou 3* acquired on national longer distances can no longer be considered as qualifying at all.

However, as the new rules have been voted in November, at the end of the season, we think that the transitional procedures should consider that the qualifications acquired in 2008 can be kept for 2009 as distances (not * labels) "more or less 1 or 2 km".

This means that all competitors who achieved their qualification last year on a 119 km should be considered as qualified for a 160 km, same as those having qualified on a 120 km. **Horses/riders having qualified in 2008 for a 160 km in national and international races must keep their qualification in 2009.**

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It seems that the national federations most disadvantaged are those who have had an official national qualification system in place for several years. The French federation strongly supports the new rules as an excellent thing in itself. However to be satisfactorily implemented the system needs transitional procedures other than those proposed and with which the **FFE doesn't agree**.

We fear another bad consequence : about 1500 to 2000 French horses qualified last year on national races for the the 2009 2 and 3* standards. However they won't be accepted as such. Should all of them go back to CEI 1* ? This sounds amazing !

And should your answer be YES, then we will lack furiously CEI 1* : how could the few we have offer the same capacity as more than 150 national races of 90 km and above ? Ad contrario CEI 2* will be empty at the beginning of the season.

This is foreseen and very much feared by the organisers and the riders who have started complaining about the sporting and financial consequences that could be very severe.

As you know, endurance riders are mainly professional. And because it appears clearly that the FEI could organize the transition differently and without penalizing so many riders, owners and organizers, we fear judicial actions against our federation and the FEI.

This is why, the French Equestrian Federation urgently requests that the FEI reconsiders its position and accepts in 2009 modifications of the current transitional measures that would preserve the reliability of endurance qualification together with the sporting and economical dynamics of the discipline.

I am looking forward to reading your opinion on this matter,

And remain, Dear Alex,

Sincerely yours.



Dominique Faye