

FEI Code of Conduct Towards Environment & Sustainable Development

General Principles

Sustainable development satisfies the needs of the present generation without compromising the chance for future generations to satisfy theirs.

Brundtland Report (1987)

The idea behind sustainable development is that long-term preservation of our environment, our habitat as well as its biodiversity and natural resources and the environment will only be possible if combined simultaneously with economic, social and political development particularly geared to the benefit of the poorest members of society.

The equestrian sport is the only Olympic sport, which is performed in union with an outstanding ambassador of nature and the animal world: the horse.

This factor alone makes the equestrian sport one of the most interested in the conservation of a sound environment and the FEI must focus the attention of all horsemen on the dangers which today threaten that environment in a world more and more governed by technology and short-sighted economic interests.

In order to help contribute towards the long-term preservation of the environment, the FEI strongly recommends the Equestrian family (FEI, NFs, Organisers, Riders, Owners, Breeders, etc.) to follow the guidelines listed below:

1. The **FEI code of conduct towards the welfare of the horse** must be strictly adhered to;
2. **Young riders** must be taught to consider the sport in the context of a deeper and more concerned understanding of the animal world and to place the achievement of horsemanship above that of mastering the technicalities of the various equestrian disciplines.
3. NFs should be encouraged to offer **assistance to other national equestrian organisations** within their countries, such as pony clubs or associations for equestrian tourism. They may also play a role in teaching young people to appreciate the beauties of nature, the love of the horse and respect for the environment.
4. NFs should give priority to encouraging **sports activity in underprivileged social circles**. They should take active steps to support initiatives along these lines and to promote the examples set by such initiatives.

5. Those NFs of countries less developed in the Olympic equestrian disciplines but with a long-standing tradition of horse breeding and local horse events, should be helped to **foster their traditional approach to the sports with horses** as a means of maintaining the presence of the horse and its natural environment in their countries.
6. The **protection of the environment** must always prevail over the technical requirements of the various disciplines when organising events and in particular in the following cases:
 - a) Harmonious integration: Equestrian facilities should be built or converted so as to ensure their harmonious integration into the local context, whether natural or man-made, and in accordance with considerate planning of land use. The infrastructure should enable the use of durable and safe construction materials, the economical use of water and energy resources, and efficient waste management. Use of renewable resources and energy supplies should be a priority. Any building or conversion work will have to take into account the principles of environmental protection and ideally be the subject of a prior environmental impact study.
 - b) Preservation of countryside: Equestrian events such as Driving, Endurance and Eventing (cross country phase) must be so arranged as to ensure the protection of conservation areas, the countryside, the cultural heritage and natural resources as a whole. They will also have to be sited in such a way as to minimize the environmental impact of the infrastructure associated with them, such as housing, traffic arteries, communications, electricity supplies, water and food supplies and waste disposal and processing-
 - c) Energy preservation: Reduce energy consumption where it is used excessively and promote the use of new technologies, equipment, facilities and practices which encourage the use of renewable energy sources and energy savings, as well as encourage access to renewable and non-polluting energy sources for areas without such power supplies.
 - d) Non-polluting or recycled materials: the FEI urges NFs, organisers and riders to use sports equipment produced from non-polluting or recycled materials and manufactured in ways which economize on raw materials and energy. So far as possible, it will be necessary to encourage the use of traditional local materials for sports equipment and structures.
7. The **allocation by the FEI of championships** and events should always take into consideration their environmental impact and evaluate the soundness of the projects proposed by the bidding organisers
8. All **stables should respect environmentally sound practices** when handling stable waste including all measures to avoid soil and water pollution.
9. Training in indoor, such as Show Jumping, Dressage and Vaulting, must always, between competitions, provide **periods of relaxation for the horse in a natural environment**.

10. Whenever riding in the countryside, riders should **not litter and prevent fire hazards**. They should endeavour to inform others against littering, against illegal waste deposits and against the spreading of fires.
11. While using natural trails for competition or exercise, riders and equestrian organisations should promote understanding and good relations with other users, such as walkers and bikers, and should **always respect animals and plants** by keeping their horses under control.
12. Since the horse is an important element of the natural environment, the FEI and the NFs should promote all common programs with horse breeders which may promote breeding activities and encourage the protection of their environment.
13. The FEI has intensified its efforts to combat athlete's doping by adhering to the World Anti-Doping Code and the implementation of the Code with the FEI Anti-Doping Rules for Riders. At local level, clubs and coaches should take on special responsibilities in this **health promotion** drive.

Approved by FEI General Assembly
1-2 May 2006, Kuala Lumpur (MAS)