

The FEQHA Drug Policy and Testing Procedure

THE FEQHA DRUG POLICY

FEQHA strives towards a sport which is fair for all participating animals and human beings. One of the elements supporting this policy is a clear understandable policy on which medical substances are allowed and which not. The document below describes in succinct form drug policy and testing procedure as well as sanctions in case of positive drug tests.

Substances

- FEQHA use the newest official update (per August 1.) of the “FEI Equine Prohibited Substances List”. With very few exceptions, products on this list are not allowed.
- By pre-paying an examination fee, participants can prior to a show send in a duly filled in medication sheet. This medication sheet will be thoroughly scrutinized by one or more veterinary doctors employed by FEQHA. Based on this investigation FEQHA will decide whether the medication sheet is acceptable for being part of the documentation for participating in the show.
- Participants with an accepted medication sheet are still personally responsible for any substance and change in any substances levels in the animal throughout the show. They will have to let the horse be tested on arrival and departure at their cost. The tests will show not only what is in the horse but also the level of found substances and its development from beginning to the end of the show.

TESTING PROCEDURE

1. Selection of Horses

There are three possible methods for selection of horses for in-competition anti-doping testing at the European Championships

- **Testing winners.** A significant number of winners of selected classes will be tested. The selection of classes to be tested will be accomplished prior to the championships by the drug controlling committee (DCC) consisting of the show manager, one representative from the FEQHA Executive Committee and one representative from AQHA.
- **Random testing.** A significant number of random horses will be tested. The horse selection is based on random placing in random classes decided prior to the championships by the DCC.
- **Spot testing.** The DCC can at any time during the championships decide to test any horse.

Horses can be tested several times during one European Championships event.

As soon as practical after a horse is selected for testing, it is accompanied to the sampling box. Urine and/or blood samples are collected from each horse under the supervision of the testing officials. At least one member of the DCC will be among the testing officials.

2. Sampling Kit

Sample collection is done by an FEQHA Testing Veterinarian following a strict procedure.

The main tool is the **sampling kit** packed within a uniquely numbered box and containing, among other items, gloves, urine bottles with security caps, tubes and a needle for blood sampling, a security bag, and bar code labels with the same unique number.

3. Sampling Protocol

A thorough care is taken with samples during and after collection. Testing Veterinarians open the sampling kit box and arrange all items on a bench or a table etc.; they wear disposable gloves on each hand which are only removed when the bottles have been closed at the end of the procedure.

4. Sample collection

Urine and/or blood samples are collected from each horse under the supervision of the testing officials. Every attempt should be made by the FEQHA Testing Veterinarian to collect the urine and/or the blood.

5. Preparation of the Samples

The collected blood and urine samples are both split into:

A. Sample and **B. Sample**.

6. Documents

The FEQHA Testing Veterinarian completes the Medication Control Form and adds the necessary stamps and labels that identify the sample. It consists of three (3) parts.

- The Testing Veterinarian must keep one part.
- The Person Responsible for the horse must keep the second part.
- The third part is placed in a small plastic bag and is sent to the FEQHA approved Medical Control Laboratory (MCL) with the samples.

The latter part is identified by the unique number but not by the name of the Person Responsible. A copy of the Medication Control Form is sent to the FEQHA.

7. Preparation and shipping of the samples to the laboratory

The samples are carefully packed and placed back into the original kit box which is closed with a sealing strip. The kit boxes are in turn placed in an isothermal bag with ice packs; the isothermal bag is placed in a special carrying bag closed with a tamper-proof security clip. The MCL Sample Dispatch form is filled in and faxed to the laboratory. The bag is shipped by German Post or courier to the laboratory.

8. Person Responsible Witnesses the Entire Process

The person responsible or their appointed representative signs a form to certify that they have witnessed the entire procedure and have no objection to the entire procedure. If there are any concerns or complaints, the PR will have the opportunity to write them on the form.

9. Laboratory Testing of the Samples

Once the samples reach the Laboratory, the B Samples are stored securely waiting any required testing at a later date. The A Samples (urine and/or blood) are used for the initial analysis. The process may take up to 28 days to complete. In rare cases it may take more. If a prohibited substance is detected, the results are promptly reported to the FEQHA DCC. The DCC then works in cooperation with an appointed lawyer to examine the specifics of the case and to decide on the need for any further action.

10. The post Testing Action and Communication Standard Steps

After the FEQHA approved test laboratory have reported back the results of the test, the following actions and communication takes place depending on the results and the response from the responsible person for the horse (the PR).

- **STARTING POINT**
 - HORSE IS TESTED
 - SAMPLE IS SENT TO FEQHA APPROVED LAB 1

- **SAMPLE IS NEGATIVE**
 - SAMPLE DESTROYED. TIMING DEPENDING ON LAB PROCEDURES AND FEQHA POLICY. NORMALLY IT WILL TAKE PLACE WITHIN ONE YEAR.

- **SAMPLE IS POSITIVE**
 - ADVERSE ANALYTICAL FINDING PLUS SUBSTANCE CLASSIFICATION COMMUNICATED

 - IN CASE ALONE CONTROLLED MEDICATION IS FOUND
 - A. CASE QUALIFY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE
 - PR ACCEPTS SANCTION OFFERED. END OF CASE
 - B. CASE DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE OR PR DOES NOT ACCEPT SANCTION OFFERED.
 - PR MAY REQUEST B. SAMPLE ANALYSIS (GO TO STEP 2)
 - PR MAY DECLINE B. SAMPLE ANALYSIS (GO DIRECTLY TO STEP 3)

 - IN CASE A BANNED SUBSTANCE IS FOUND
 - PROVISIONAL SUSPENSION IMMEDIATELY INITIATED
 - PR MAY REQUEST B. SAMPLE ANALYSIS (GO TO STEP 2)
 - PR MAY DECLINE B. SAMPLE ANALYSIS (GO DIRECTLY TO STEP 3)

11. The post Testing Action and Communication Steps. The Potential Step 2

- **PR REQUESTS B-SAMPLE ANALYSIS**
 - OPPORTUNITY FOR A DIFFERENT FEQHA APPROVED LAB PLUS ANALYSING WITNESS FOR ENTIRE PROCESS

- **B SAMPLE IS NOT CONFIRMED**
 - CASE IS DROPPED

- **B SAMPLE IS CONFIRMED**
 - ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE. PR IS AGAIN OFFERED ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTION
 - PR ACCEPTS SANCTION OFFERED. END OF CASE
 - PR DECLINES SANCTION OFFERED
 - CASE IS SUBMITTED TO THE FEQHA Arbitration Court (STEP 3)

12. The post Testing Action and Communication Steps. The Potential Step 3

- **FEQHA BIG ARBITRATION COURT IS CONSTITUTED**
 - THE FEQHA ARBITRATION COURT CONSISTS OF MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES
 - PR AND FEQHA MAY SUBMIT SUPPORTIVE WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION
 - IF THE PR DOES NOT REQUEST A HEARING THE FEQHA ARBITRATION COURT WILL MAKE ITS DECISION BASED ON THE ABOVE
 - IF THE PR REQUESTS A HEARING
 - HEARING IN PERSON OR BY CONFERENCE CALL. WITNESSES (EXPERTS MAY TESTIFY)

 - FEQHA ARBITRATION COURT ISSUES FINAL WRITTEN DECISION WHICH CANNOT BE APPEALED.

Potential FEQHA sanctions in case of violations of drug rules in FEQHA organized shows

Please find below an overview of potential sanctions FEQHA will use in case of one or more violations of the drug rules. FEQHA will evaluate each case carefully on an individual basis and use the overview as an overall guidance.

FEQHA Sanctions in Case of Violation of Drug Rules in FEQHA organized Shows			
In Case of Positive Test Results of Controlled Medication			
	First Violation	Second Violation*	Third Violation*
Disqualification from show	Yes	Yes	Yes
All results cancelled	Yes	Yes	Yes
Prices/awards returned	Yes	Yes	Yes
Years of Ban	Up to 1 years	1-2 years	At least 2 years
Pay all procedure costs	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fine to pay to FEQHA	0-1.000 €	1.000 – 2.000 €	2.000 – 5.000 €
In Case of Positive Test Results of Banned Substances			
	First Violation	Second Violation*	Third Violation*
Disqualification from show	Yes	Yes	Yes
All results cancelled	Yes	Yes	Yes
Prices/awards returned	Yes	Yes	Yes
Years of Ban	Up to 2 years	2-4 years	4 years - lifelong
Pay all procedure costs	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fine to pay to FEQHA	1.000-3.000 €	3.000 – 6.000 €	5.000 – 10.000 €
In Case of Refusal or not showing up for requested testing			
	First Violation	Second Violation*	Third Violation*
Disqualification from show	Yes	Yes	Yes
All results cancelled	Yes	Yes	Yes
Prices/awards returned	Yes	Yes	Yes
Years of Ban	Up to 2 years	2-4 years	4 years - lifelong
Pay all procedure costs	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fine to pay to FEQHA	1.000-3.000 €	3.000 – 6.000 €	5.000 – 10.000 €