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## **IF FOUND PLEASE RETURN THIS RULE BOOK TO:**

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### **PREAMBLE**

This 4th Edition of the Rules of the HAK is effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017. Rules are amended and changes are effective on the 1<sup>st</sup> January annually. Previous Rules, which have been amended, clarified or deleted, are superseded on that date. This edition is designed to be more user friendly, text has been made simpler and guidelines are included.

It is not possible to provide for every conceivable eventuality in these Rules. If there is no Rule to deal specifically with a particular circumstance, or if the nearest interpretation of the pertinent discipline Rule would result in an obvious injustice, it is the duty of the Jury and Officials concerned to make a decision based on common sense and fair play. Thus interpretation must reflect as closely as possible the intention of these Rules including the General Regulations, the Veterinary Regulations and all other pertinent HAK Rules and Regulations.

The Horse Association of Kenya expects all those involved in equestrian sports to adhere as closely as possible to the FEI Code of Conduct and to acknowledge and accept that at all times the welfare of the horse must be paramount and must never be subordinated to competitive or commercial influences.

“Without knowing the rules, no one can ride well enough to win consistently”. (H. G. Winkler)

All efforts must be made to adhere to the following points:

## **“FEI Code of Conduct”**

### **1. General Welfare:**

- a) Horse management: Stabling and feeding must be compatible with the best Horse management practices. Clean and good quality forage, feed and water must always be available.
- b) Training methods: Horses must only undergo training that matches their physical capabilities and level of maturity for their respective disciplines. They must not be subjected to methods, which are abusive or cause fear.
- c) Farriery and tack: Foot care and shoeing must be of a high standard. Tack must be designed and fitted to avoid the risk of pain or injury.
- d) Transport: During transportation, Horses must be fully protected against injuries and other health risks. Vehicles must be safe, well ventilated, maintained to a high standard, disinfected regularly and driven by competent personnel. Competent handlers must always be available to manage the Horses.
- e) Transit: All journeys must be planned carefully, and Horses allowed regular rest periods with access to food and water.

### **2. Fitness to compete:**

- a) Fitness and competence: Participation in Competition must be restricted to fit Horses and Athletes of proven competence. Horses must be allowed suitable rest period between training and competitions; additional rest periods should be allowed following travelling.
- b) Health status: No Horse deemed unfit to compete may compete or continue to compete, veterinary advice must be sought whenever there is any doubt.
- c) Doping and Medication: Any action or intent of doping and illicit use of medication constitute a serious welfare issue and will not be tolerated. After any veterinary treatment, sufficient time must be allowed for full recovery before Competition.
- d) Surgical procedures: Any surgical procedures that threaten a competing Horse’s welfare or the safety of other Horses and/or Athletes must not be allowed.
- e) Pregnant/recently foaled Mares: Mares must not compete after their fourth month of pregnancy or with foal at foot.
- f) Misuse of Aids: Abuse of a Horse using natural riding aids or artificial aids (e.g. whips, spurs, etc.) will not be tolerated.

### **3. Events must not prejudice Horse Welfare:**

- a) Competition Areas: Horses must be trained and compete on suitable and safe surfaces. All obstacles and competition conditions must be designed with the safety of the Horse in mind.
- b) Ground Surfaces: All ground surfaces on which Horses walk, train or compete must be designed and maintained to reduce factors that could lead to injury.
- c) Extreme Weather: Competitions must not take place in extreme weather conditions that may compromise welfare or safety of the Horse. Provision must be made for cooling conditions and equipment for Horses after competing.
- d) Stabling at Events: Stables must be safe, hygienic, comfortable, well ventilated and of sufficient size for the type and disposition of the Horse. Washing-down areas and water must always be available.

### **4. Humane Treatment of Horses:**

- a) Veterinary Treatment: Veterinary expertise must always be available at an Event. If a Horse is injured or exhausted during a Competition, the Athlete must stop competing and a veterinary evaluation be performed.
- b) Referral Centres: Wherever necessary, Horses should be collected by ambulance and transported to the nearest relevant treatment centre for further assessment and therapy. Injured Horses must be given full supportive treatment before being transported.
- c) Competition Injuries: The incidence of injuries sustained in Competition should be monitored. Ground surface conditions, frequency of Competitions and any other risk factors should be examined carefully to indicate ways to minimize injuries.
- d) Retirement: Horses must be treated sympathetically and humanely when they retire from Competition.
- e) Euthanasia: If injuries or illness are sufficiently severe or the condition and/or age of a horse will cause it to suffer, it may need to be euthanized on humane grounds by a veterinarian as soon as possible, with the sole aim of minimizing suffering.

### **5. Education:**

The FEI urges all those involved in equestrian sport to attain the highest possible levels of education in areas of expertise relevant to the care and management of the Competition Horse.

This Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse may be modified from time to time and the views of all are welcomed. Particular attention will be paid to new research findings and the FEI encourages further funding and support for welfare studies.