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PREAMBLE

This published 5th Edition of the Horse Association of Kenya Constitution, Regulations and Rules for all Equestrian Disciplines practiced in Kenya, is effective from 1st January 2020 with ammendments 2022. Previous Rules, which have been amended, clarified or deleted, are superseded on that date. Rules are amended, clarified or deleted annually and published to be amended by hand in this copy or with new pages in future years.

Every eventuality cannot be provided for in these Rules. In any unforeseen or exceptional circumstances, it is the duty of the appropriate person or body to make a decision in a sporting spirit, by approaching as nearly as possible the intention of the HAK Rules. Should there remain any omission, such omission shall be interpreted in a manner compatible to the fullest extent with the other provisions of these Rules, other rules and with the spirit of justice and fair play.

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.

Rules and Regulations are designed for three main reasons:

The welfare and protection of horses.

The safety and protection of athletes.

and

To ensure “Fair Play” in all Competitions and practices.

“Without knowing the Rules, no one can ride well enough to win consistently”.

Hans Gunter Winkler – five times Gold Medal winner
and seven medals in six consecutive Olympic Games (1956 - 1976)

**All efforts must be made to adhere to:
The FEI Code of Conduct for the welfare of the horse**

1. General Welfare:

- a) Good Horse management: Stabling and feeding must be compatible with the best Horse management practices. Clean and good quality hay, 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 in line with current FEI guidelines.

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
1.1.2022

paid to new research findings and the FEI encourages further funding and support for welfare studies.