

## Dear National Federations and FEI Stakeholders,

Given the increasing number of requests that the FEI is receiving from third parties for the approval of new Series, the FEI felt the necessity to approve a policy for approval of Series for the sake of transparency, clarity and efficiency.

Further to the applicable FEI Rules and Regulations, this "FEI Policy for Approval of Series" was initially approved by the FEI Board during its in-person meeting in Montevideo (URU) on 18 November 2017. The FEI Board approved further modifications to the Policy during its in-person meeting in Manama (BRN) on 17 November 2018.

The FEI Policy for Approval of Series is published on [inside.fei.org](http://inside.fei.org)

Further modifications/updates of this Policy (if any) will be duly published on [inside.fei.org](http://inside.fei.org).

According to the FEI General Regulations:

- "Series" means a number of International Competitions held successively at different Events and the results of which may lead to a final classification or qualify Horses and/or Athletes for a final Event or Competition or prize. The Events do not need to be held in different countries (*Appendix A "Definitions "*).
- The decision as to whether or not to approve a Series is taken by the FEI Board (Article 105).

As a consequence, the following steps shall apply for the approval of a Series by the FEI:

1. A written request for the approval of a Series shall be submitted to the FEI Secretary General with copy to relevant Sports Director.
2. The FEI Board will approve Series only during its 2 annual in-person meetings (in spring and in fall).
3. The written request shall be submitted at least 6 months before the FEI Board in-person meeting in question. The exact date of the FEI Board in-person meetings shall be confirmed by the FEI on an annual basis. It is the responsibility of the party making the request to ensure that the request is submitted to the FEI within the 6 months deadline.
4. The written request shall include the following information:
  - 4.1. Explanation of the concept of the Series;
  - 4.2. Applicable rules of the Series;
  - 4.3. Prize Money for each qualifier and total prize money for the final Competition or classification;
  - 4.4. Number of annual/seasonal qualifiers;
  - 4.5. Sponsors of the Series, if any.
5. The party making the request shall confirm to the FEI that any applicable FEI Rules and Regulations (as a matter of example, but not only: the invitation rules, competition format or General Regulations) have been fulfilled. If any FEI Rules and Regulations are not followed, the requesting party shall specify where it does not comply with as well as the reasons for that.

6. The request will be evaluated by the FEI, including the relevant Technical Committee. The FEI Headquarters and/or the relevant Technical Committee may ask the requesting party to provide additional information, clarifications and/or to address specific points to ensure that a proper evaluation can be made. The FEI Headquarters and/or the relevant Technical Committee shall respond within 2 months after such additional information, clarifications and/or specific point is provided/addressed by the requesting party.
7. Should the requesting party decide not to provide any such additional information, clarifications or fail to address specific points, the initial (or the most up to date) written request for the approval of a Series will still be submitted to the Board for a decision.
8. If applicable, the requesting party shall provide its final written request document to the FEI Headquarters at the latest 1 month prior to the Board in-person meeting.
9. Following the evaluation, a written recommendation from the relevant Technical Committee will be provided to the FEI Board for FEI Board's decision (for "Lower Level Series" see section 9).
10. The following non-exhaustive list of factors are taken into consideration for the approval decision:
  - 10.1. The welfare of the horse is paramount;
  - 10.2. Compliance with the FEI Rules and Regulations;
  - 10.3. Compliance with applicable international and national legislations (such as but not only antitrust and competition law);
  - 10.4. Any constraints or non-approval must be duly justified in order to achieve a legitimate sporting imperative, and must be proportionate, i.e., they go no further than is necessary to achieve that imperative.

## 11. Right of Appeal

The requesting party shall be entitled to lodge an appeal with FEI Tribunal against a decision of the Board to refuse the approval of a Series and/or against the FEI Headquarters and/or Board's decision to delay the process for approving the Series in question and/or in case the FEI Headquarters and/or the relevant Technical Committee fails to respond within the 2 month period as specified under paragraph 6 above.

## 12. Lower Level Series

The FEI Board has delegated the approval of "Lower level Series" to the FEI Headquarters (upon recommendation of the Technical Committees). The FEI Board shall be informed of the "Lower Level Series" approved by the FEI Headquarters.

In order to be considered a "Lower Level Series" the following 2 criteria shall be fulfilled:

1) The level of the prize money in a Final competition and or final classification of the Series cannot exceed €50'000 (fifty thousand Euros).

**and**

2) All Events of the Series must a CIM as defined in the General Regulations.

The process described above shall be also followed for the approval of the "Lower Level Series", except for the final decision which shall be taken by the FEI Headquarters and



subsequently ratified by the FEI Board as explained in this section.

### 13. Right of Appeal

The requesting party shall be entitled to lodge an appeal with FEI Tribunal against a decision of the FEI Headquarters to not approve a Lower Level Series and/or against the FEI Headquarters' decision to delay the process for approving the Lower Level Series in question.