



Guidelines to competing at FEI International Competitions Senior, Para

Please read this important document in its entirety

If you wish to compete at an international competition you must check the current selection policy to see whether you are eligible and then register your interest on the Competition Plan for International riders with the BD office. Ideally this need to be done as far ahead as possible. You will be required to state which competition, horse and level you would like to compete at and confirm where you achieved your qualifying score.

The BD office will log your interest and discuss it with the selectors. You will then be notified approx. 4 – 6 weeks prior to definite entry date whether you have been successful in being selected. Riders must always enter international competitions through the BD office.

Show Schedule

Once a show schedule has been received (up to 6 - 8 weeks before competition) it is sent to all riders on the International Riders email list, it will explain all details about the show and what you will need to do next as a rider.

All information about the show from entry dates, accommodation, stabling, price money etc is all in this document.

Nominated Entries (Championships only)

With the FEI online entry system nominated entries are now mainly used for Team and Championship competitions. Each nation is informed how many athletes they can send and the nominated entries consist of twice this number. This includes all possible athletes that may compete according to the BD selectors. It is not a final list of who will be competing. Between nominated and definite entry dates, riders will be contacted to be told whether they will be definitely entered as per the selector's final decision. At this point riders will be required to promptly complete entry forms and FEI registration for horse and rider and in some cases an FEI passport. Please read through the schedule and take note of the important information.

FEI Rider & Horse Licenses

Each combination will be required to have an FEI rider and horse license; this must be renewed each calendar year (1 Jan – 31 Dec). Riders must complete the forms and return with payment to the BD office. Riders will not receive any confirmation but are able to check their numbers and information online or on the FEI athlete app. With the online entry system entries are now unable to be made without you or your horse being registered.

FEI Passports & Vaccinations

At an international competition you will require an FEI passport, to apply for a passport you will need to complete a passport application form. The FEI passport is a cover of the horse's national passport (which all horses are now required to have) and therefore the national passport must comply with the FEI rules. It must be correctly filled out by the owner and their vet and the horse's microchip number must be clearly shown, together with the vaccinations.

Vaccinations - Horses must have at least received:

- A primary course of two vaccinations, given between 21 and 92 days apart
- A third dose (the first booster) must be given within 7 months after the date of administration of the second primary dose
- At least annual boosters given subsequently of the last dose, the last being within six months + 21 days of the FEI competition.
- No vaccination is permitted within 7 days of arrival at the FEI event.

A FEI passport will be valid for 4 years and then need to be renewed, the expiry dates are stated on the passport.

Flags

Riders will be permitted to wear Union Jack flags on their breast pocket and saddle cloth, for Team competitions a Red Team flag will be issued to you.

Definite Entries

These entries consist of names and final details of athletes and horses that will take part at the event and must be received by the organising committee of the competition at the dates mentioned in the schedule. In order for this to take place riders must have completed their entry information including classes wishing to be entered and submitted this to the BD office well in advance of this date. British Dressage has an International Admin fee of £20.00 per combination per competition.

Competition Show Entry Fee

When riders have been notified that they have been definitely entered, they will be required to pay the secretary of the competition directly the full entry fee or as per the FEI schedule.

Clean Sport

It is the rider's responsibility to ensure that if they or their horse is dope tested under no circumstances could there be any substance in their urine or blood which could come up as a positive test and eliminate them from the competition. For websites please to the global DRO website www.globaldro.com for your horse www.feicleansport.com/search

Travelling

Due to current Brexit discussions please can we ask when travelling abroad you make sure you up to date on the latest guidelines from DEFRA they can be found here:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/export-horses-and-ponies-special-rules>

Before travelling abroad it is important to make sure that you comply with European Driving laws appropriate to the vehicle you are driving and the country you are driving in.

All vehicles driving on the continent require you to carry a fluorescent vest and breathalyser for the driver and each passenger. It is also compulsory to carry a spare set of bulbs and a red warning triangle. British vehicles must display a GB sticker and have headlight deflectors fitted. All your vehicle documentation must be carried with you including your driver's license. A spare wheel is fairly vital; some countries such as France will not supply a new tyre on a Sunday!

Please also make sure you have checked if your lorry meets the necessary requirement to travel on a ferry, for example that it has the required number of tethering rings. Your ferry company will be able to advise you of their requirements.

LGV drivers need to be aware of their driver hours, their weights and their tachograph laws. They must plan their journeys (including fuel stops and feed/watering stops) accordingly. The fines are hefty and impoundments very inconvenient.

LGV vehicles also require a Euro Vignette in some countries which is purchased online.

You also need to be aware of the latest DEFRA guidelines on transporting horses and plan your journey to conform to this too. Your journey and all stops should be recorded on an Animal Transport Certificate which needs to be retained for 6 months in case of inspection. Vehicles should also have an Authorisation from Animal Health for the length of journey undertaken.

Riders need to take care that they have the appropriate health certificates and export certificates for their horses for the country they which to travel too, if these expire during the show then plans must be made to re do them to get home.

All this sounds very daunting, but is made much easier with the help of a good shipping agent who for a moderate fee will organise the paperwork and overnight stabling for you.

As regards packing for your journey, try to anticipate and cover every eventuality. A good equine first aid kit is a must. Please be reminded that if travelling with common day to day equine drugs that they should be kept in a lockable container and be stored in a safe place in your lorry. They should never be taken into the stables at the competition. Under FEI doping regulations the FEI can penalise for intent to use if drugs are found in your tack locker in the stables.

A colicing horse on a 2 day journey in a foreign country is frightening, especially if you can't find a vet easily. Be aware if you administer anything to your horse make sure you check and abide by the Clean Sport rules and if in doubt contact a vet for advice.

Try and walk the horses for at least 15 minutes at the end of each leg. It will pay dividends at journey's end.

Above all don't panic if your horse doesn't feel like the horse you left home with, he is probably tired and stiff. Be prepared to manage him for a couple of days before your class and get him supple again.

Whilst travelling your horse make sure that he stays hydrated. If you can, provide access to water at all times and put apples and or apple juice in the water to encourage drinking or at the very least a mouth rinse. Be careful not to frighten your horse with a bucket that can tip over or one that he is unfamiliar with. Rig up a bucket during rest stops or on ferry crossings and monitor what your horse drinks. You can also syringe water into his mouth if he really won't drink, but don't upset him by doing this.

Try to keep to regular feed times, giving half the normal ration. Feed carrots, apples, sugar beet all high in moisture. Wet hay, haylage should be constantly available but don't subject your horse to travelling with his nose stuffed in a dusty hay net. Practise on shorter journeys so that your horse is used to eating and drinking on the lorry. Get him used to his travel feed well in advance. Don't suddenly change haylage brand for example. Electrolytes will help keep him hydrated by encouraging him to drink but only if he has access to water.

Monitor the temperature in the horse area and make sure there is plenty of ventilation. Have a change of rugs to hand.

The most important thing is that you untie your horse and get his head down at rest stops. This is the only way that he can drain mucus from his lungs. You will be horrified at what can pour out of his nostrils after a few hours travelling.

If you have had a long journey be careful unloading, some horses are a bit wobbly coming down the ramp, make sure you unload on a safe surface and don't turn sharply at the bottom of the ramp.

Monitor vital signs - normal amount of droppings and normal consistency, take temperatures AM and PM when stabled.

If your horse refuses to drink whilst travelling, make sure that he does on arrival, half a bucket at a time, before feeding.

When you arrive at the show if it is somewhere hot pack fans, extension leads and cable ties so that you can rig them up in stable.

At The Competition

Once at the competition horses are required to stay on site and bridle numbers are to be worn at all times (on bridles and head collars). Riders are to have familiarised themselves with the procedure for the trot up. Riders are reminded that they are representing their Country and to uphold the highest level of etiquette and professionalism with other competitors as well as competition officials. There will be allocated slots in which riders can use the arena for warm up purposes and the secretary will advise of this.

Please make sure you have familiarised yourselves with the FEI General Regulations and Dressage specific rules www.fei.org.

Veterinary Inspection / Trot Up

This normally takes place the day before the competition starts and the official vet will check that the horse matches the passport and that the vaccinations are up to date. Each rider/trainer in turn will bring the horse for inspection and trot it in hand so that soundness can be assessed. You are expected to be smartly dressed, BD clothing can be purchased from Tylers, details from BD office though this is not compulsory. First impressions to the competition officials will count. The horse should be plaited with hooves oiled and tail pulled or plaited. Your horse should wear a snaffle bridle. If he is difficult to control and you need to use a chain or a double bridle, you must get permission from the President of the Ground Jury. The bridle must be clean have your number attached to it. Ensure you are ready well in advance, you will be in a holding area for the few minutes prior to your individual slot.

- Warming up; ensure you and the horse is suitably warmed up and supple for the presentation. It is advisable to wear boots for this part to prevent injury to the horse's legs.
- Ensure you remove all boots and pick out the horses feet and give your horse a final polish prior to being called.
- For the presentation stand yourself in front of the judges and your horse, holding the reins in both hands one either side of the bit keeping your horse still while he is inspected. The judges will then ask you to walk to the first marker, trot to the second, and prepare to walk and then turn back trotting past the judges.
- It is important to remember to keep your horse straight in a good rhythm with impulsion so as not to cause an un-level stride. Ensure you prepare to turn and don't ask your horse to turn too tightly. The judges will then confirm whether you have passed the inspection.
- If you are unlucky enough not to be accepted, follow the directions of the steward and keep your horse warmed up and ready for re-presenting.

Post - Competition

After the competition remember to settle your account, pick up anything you need to i.e plaques, claim your prize money at which point you will get your horse's passport back, thank the organiser and secretary. Leave your stables and the area where you have parked your vehicle clean and tidy disposing of all litter. British riders in future years will benefit from the impression you leave behind.

Administration

Any forms, badges or information required please do not hesitate to contact the BD office - Lianne Martin (Senior International) 02476 698835 or Sharon Weir 02476 698834 (Ponies, juniors, Young Riders)