



RULES

FEI NATIONS CUP™ SERIES

DRAFT Version 2 – 8/08/2012

Effective for season

2013

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RULES FOR THE FEI NATIONS CUP™ SERIES

Preamble

These Rules must be read in conjunction with the FEI Statutes, the FEI General Regulations (GRs), the FEI Jumping Rules (JRs), and all other relevant FEI rules and regulations and replace all previous rules on the Nations Cup Series. Should there be any omission in these Rules, they shall be interpreted in a manner compatible to the fullest extent possible with the existing provisions in these Rules.

STRUCTURE FEI NATIONS CUP™ SERIES

The FEI Nations Cup™ Series will consist of a Regional Qualification System, two Semi-Finals and a Final. In principal the Semi Finals and Final will be held in September or beginning of October depending on the location. The qualification system in each Region should be completed at least 4 weeks before the start of the first Semi Final.

1. Regional Qualification System

For the Regional Qualification System the World will be divided in Regions as follows:

A. Western Europe: Andorra, Austria, Belgium, France, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, Monaco, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Switzerland, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Iceland, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden

B. Eastern and Central Europe: Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Macedonia, Malta, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

C. Americas: Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Antigua, Barbados, Bermuda, Canada, Cayman Islands, Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, USA, Virgin Islands

D. Middle East: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Iran, Pakistan, Turkmenistan

E. Asia: Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand

F. Africa: Botswana, Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

For each Region there will be a specific qualification system established by the FEI. All nations of a Region must have equal possibilities to qualify for the Semi Finals. If there is no qualifying competition in a Region, the qualification for that Region will be based upon a NF ranking established by adding up the points of the 4 best riders of each NF of the Region in the Rolex Ranking. In case of equality the placing of the best rider of the NF on the Rolex Ranking will be decisive. This will apply for the 2013 and

2014 seasons after which the results of the Nations cup competitions in the Region will be used to qualify team(s) for the Semi Finals.

Allocation of slots per Region for Semi Finals

Allocation of slots per Region for the Semi Finals should be as indicated below.

In each Semi Final 12 NF Teams will be able to compete plus the home nation if not qualified. Consequently a maximum of 24 NFs can qualify for the Semi Finals plus two home teams if the home team is not qualified. The home teams if not qualified will be obliged to show that they have attempted to qualify for the Semi Finals and Final.

For the 2013 season the number of slots allocated to each Region will be based upon a ranking of NFs established for each Region by adding up the points of the 4 best riders of each NF of the Region in the Rolex Ranking. In case of equality the placing of the best rider of the NF on the Rolex Ranking will be decisive. However, each Region will have a minimum of at least three slots except Africa.

Based upon Rolex ranking n° 138 the number of slots allocated to each Region is the following:

- A. Western Europe: 10
- B. Eastern and Central Europe: 3
- C. Americas: 4
- D. Middle East: 3
- E. Asia: 3 (of which at least one for Australasia)
- F. Africa: 1

For the calculation of the allocation of slots to each Region see Annex 3

Qualification of NF's for the slots allocated to the specific Region

The qualification system will be based upon the CSIO competitions organized in each Region. All nations must have equal possibilities to qualify for the Semi Finals.

If there is no qualifying competition in a Region, the qualification for that Region will be based upon a NF ranking established by adding up the points of the 4 best riders of each NF of the Region in the Rolex Ranking. In case of equality the placing of the best rider of the NF on the Rolex Ranking will be decisive. The December Rolex Ranking the year preceding the Nations Cup season will be used for this purpose.

Refer to the qualification system for each region as annexed to these rules.
From the 2015 season a Region must host at least one CSIO to be eligible to send a team to a Semi Final.

2. Semi-Finals

In each Semi Final 12 NF Teams will be able to compete plus the home nation if not qualified.

In case a qualified NF Team withdraws from participation at a Semi-Final it will not be replaced. .

The teams of each Region that qualify for the Semi Finals will be spread equally over the two Semi Finals. The first team will qualify for Semi Final A, the second team for Semi Final B etc... The slots will be distributed per Region to start with Region A and to end with Region F. There must never be a difference in number of more than one team in both Semi Finals. In case of withdrawals the method of dividing the teams among both Semi Finals will be recalculated.

The Semi Finals will be allocated after a bidding process. The minimum prize money in each Nations Cup competition in each Semi Final will be minimum 400.000 €. Each of the Semi Final Nations Cup competitions will have the same amount of prize money.

In addition to the Nations Cup competition the organizing committee may host additional international competitions but the most important competition at the Semi Final is the Nations Cup competition. The Nations Cup must have more prize money than any of the other competitions.

3. Final

The Nations Cup Final must have more prize money than a Semi Final and any other competition at the Final.

The Nations Cup Final must be held in prime time and cannot count as a qualification for another competition at the Final.

The six best teams of each Semi Final, plus the home team if not qualified, qualify for the Final.

In addition to the Nations Cup competition the organizing committee may host additional international competitions but the most important (most important is defined as the competition being held during prime time and not counting as a qualification for another competition) competition at the Final is the Nations Cup Final.

The Nations Cup Final will be run over two rounds on different days.

The starting order of the first round will be decided by a draw.

The first round will serve only as a qualification for the second round. The first round will also establish the starting order in the second round on Sunday (reverse order of the results of the first round). The second round is only open to the best six teams of the first round and those placed equal for sixth place.

In the second round all teams start on zero penalties. Only teams taking part in the second round receive prize money.

In the second round the fifth team rider/horse may replace a team/horse rider that has taken part in the first round. The team member order in the second may be changed at the discretion of the Chef d'Equipe.

In case of a tie on penalties after the second round for first place only, there would be a jump-off with each team represented by three team members selected by the Chef d'Equipe from those taking part in the second round. Team members of the same team start one after the other in the jump-off. Once one team member completes his round the next team member commences his round. The clock continues to run from

the time the first team member crosses the start line until all team members of the same team have completed their round. Penalties and times of the three same team members are added together to give the team its score in the jump-off. There must be a common start and finish line for each rider in the jump-off. A rider cannot cross the start line prior the previous team member crossing the finish line. The penalty for not respecting this rule is elimination. There is no drop score in the jump off.

The Final will be allocated after a bidding process. The prize money for the 2013 Semi-Finals and Final will be communicated before the 1st of January 2013.

4. Calendar

CSI5* Events are not permitted to clash with the Semi-Finals and Final.

5. Miscellaneous

The structure of the Nations Cup Series will be reviewed by the Jumping Committee after the 2013 Final.

It is the responsibility of each NF to select its CSIO. No more than one CSIO Event may be held per season in the same country with the exception of a Semi Final or Final. The FEI General Regulations allow for countries outside Europe to host a second CSIO (refer to article 103.3 and 4).

The FEI HQ may after consultation with the Jumping Committee decide upon any issue that may not be covered in these Rules.

Annex 1 – Standard Regional Qualification System (except for the Western European Region)

Confirmation of Teams

Before the 1st December of the preceding year NF's of each Region must confirm if they wish to qualify for the Semi Finals and Final. Consequently, they must compete with a team in the Qualifiers organised in their Region and if qualified in the Semi-Final and Final.. NF's that do not respect this without a valid reason (transport and quarantine issues), will be excluded for qualification the following year.

Confirmation of Qualifying Competitions

The Regional Qualification System (except for the Western European Region) consists of CSIO2*, CSIO3*, CSIO4* and CSIO5* Events providing the minimum requirements set forth in this Annex:

- The Nations Cup Competitions must use at least the obstacle dimensions established for CSIO4* Nations Cup Competitions (refer to JRs Art. 264.3); the course plan must be sent to the FEI for approval prior to the Event.
- CSIO2*/CSIO3*/CSIO4*Nations Cup Competitions must offer prize money of at least CHF 30'000. CSIO5* Nations Cup Competitions must offer prize money of at least CHF 80'000.

Before the 1st December of the preceding year the NF's of the Region must confirm if they will organise a Regional Qualifier in accordance with the conditions as set out in this Annex.

Invitation of Teams

Based upon these confirmations the situation will be evaluated for each specific Region in order to establish the number of Qualifiers in which NF's need to compete. Based upon this the invitation system will be established.

The OCs have the option to invite, at their discretion, four or five Athletes per team.

All invited teams participate in the first round with a maximum of four Athletes per team. The second round is open to at least the best six and at most the best eight (exact number to be established by the OC and stated in the Schedule) teams according to their classification in the first round, if not eliminated, with a maximum of four Athletes per team.

Point System

Points can only be obtained by teams in their own Region. In order to determine the NF's that qualify for the Semi-Final, the following point system is established for the qualifiers.

Placing	Points
1 st	100
2 nd	90
3 rd	82
4 th	75
5 th	70
6 th	66
7 th	63
8 th	60

In case eligible teams are placed equal during any of the Qualifiers, the points set forth above for the places in question are added and divided equally among the teams concerned. The second decimal place is rounded up from .005 and rounded down from .004.

Teams of other Regions can be invited as long as they do not disturb the qualification system of any Region. In case a team of another Region is placed within the first eight, the next best placed eligible team (i.e. the next best placed team participating for points in that specific Region) will move up in the classification of that Competition for purposes of point distribution. Teams of the Region that are not qualified to participate in the second round of a Qualifier, will receive points based on their result in the first round, if not eliminated.

Eligible teams placed equal with a team from another Region receive the entire number of points set forth above.

Qualification for the Semi Finals

According to the invitation system established for each Region, the points obtained in one or more Qualifiers will be added. In any case, the NF's that confirm they wish to qualify for the Semi Finals must have been invited to at least the number of Qualifiers that will count. The average score (the total number of points obtained divided by the number of competitions in which the team participated) will count for qualification for the Final.

In case of equality of points for the last slot in a Region, NF's will be separated by giving preference to the NF with the greater number of first place classifications; in case there is still a tie the number of second place classifications will count and if necessary the number of third place classifications and so on until there are no longer any teams tying. In case there is still a tie, the best result of the drop score in the second round will count and in case there is still a tie, his result in the 1st round.

If there is no qualifying competition in a Region, the qualification for that Region will be based upon a NF ranking established by the addition of the points of the 4 best riders of each NF in the December Rolex Ranking of the preceding year. In case of equality the placing of the best rider of the NF on the Rolex Ranking will be decisive.

Annex 2 – Western European Region Qualification System

Confirmation of Teams

Each team will be given minimum four opportunities to qualify for the Semi Final.

Before the 1st December of the preceding year the NF's of the Western European Region must confirm if they wish to qualify for the Semi Finals and Final. Consequently, they must compete with a team in the Qualifiers organised in their Region and if qualified in the Semi-Final and Final.. NF's that do not respect this without a valid reason (transport and quarantine issues), will be excluded for qualification the following year.

Confirmation of Qualifying Competitions

All CSIO3*,4* and 5* Nations Cup competitions in Western Europe count as qualifiers for the Nations Cup Semi Finals.

The minimum requirements set forth in this Annex must be respected.

- Each Event must be at least CSIO3* level.
- All CSIO3* Nations Cup Competitions must use at least the obstacle dimensions established for CSIO4* Nations Cup competitions (refer to JRs Art. 264.3) and the course plan must be sent to the FEI for approval prior to the Event;
- Each Event must respect the requirements for the relevant star level category, according to the CSIO Requirements;
- The prize money for the Nations Cup must be at least 100.000 CHF

Invitation of Teams

Each Qualifier must invite at least 8 teams from the Western European Region.

The top six teams of the 2012 Top Level Nations Cup series and the winning team of the 2012 Nations Cup Promotional League Final have the right to select four CSIO events at which they wish to take part in 2013. They must inform the FEI of their choice before 1st December 2012.

Further to this information, the organisers must inform the FEI through their s NF of the number and names of Nations they wish to invite in addition.

The FEI will be granted a number of wild card invitations for each CSIO. The number will depend on the number of European NFs seeking invitations to ensure that all NFs have at least four opportunities to try and qualify for the Semi Finals.

The criteria to allocate the FEI wild card(s) will be based on the nearest Qualifier to the country of the team(s) who receives the wild card(s).

Point System

The same point system will apply for all competitions irrespective of the star level of the event.

In order to determine the NF's that qualify for the Semi Finals, the following point system is established for the qualifiers. Only teams of the Western European Region are eligible to earn points in the Qualifiers of this Region.

Placing	Points
1 st	100
2 nd	90

3 rd	82
4 th	75
5 th	70
6 th	66
7 th	63
8 th	60

In case eligible teams are placed equal during any of the Qualifiers, the points set forth above for the places in question are added and divided equally among the teams concerned. The second decimal place is rounded up from .005 and rounded down from .004.

Teams of other Regions can be invited as long as they do not disturb the qualification system of the region. In case a team of another Region is placed within the first eight, the next best placed eligible team (i.e. the next best placed team participating for points in that specific Region) will move up in the classification of that Competition for purposes of point distribution. Teams of the Region that are not qualified to participate in the second round of a Qualifier of their Region, will receive points based on their result in the first round, if not eliminated.

Eligible teams placed equal with a team from another Region receive the entire number of points set forth above.

Qualification for the Semi Finals

For each NF the total points obtained during the Qualifiers will be divided by the number of qualifiers in which they participated to give a total average score.

Teams that tie on points will be placed according to the number of first placing, if there is still a tie according to the number of second placing and so on until there is no longer a tie. In case there is still a tie, the best result of the drop score in the second round will count and in case there is still a tie, his result in the 1st round.

If there is no qualifying competition in a Region, the qualification for that Region will be based upon a NF ranking established by the addition of the points of the 4 best riders of each NF in the December Rolex Ranking of the preceding year. In case of equality the placing of the best rider of the NF on the Rolex Ranking will be decisive. This applies for the seasons 2013 and 2014.

Annex 3 - Calculation of the allocation of slots to each Region

Based upon Rolex ranking nr. 138 the NF's ranking is as follows:

Ranking of NF's

NF	Region	Rider 1	Rider 2	Rider 3	Rider 4	Total NF	slots
GER	W-Europe	2187	2112	2027	1875	8201	1
FRA	W-Europe	2245	1980	1952	1820	7997	2
USA	America	2023	1975	1833	1780	7611	3
GBR	W-Europe	2203	1840	1710	1530	7283	4
SUI	W-Europe	2210	2070	1432	1420	7132	5
SWE	W-Europe	2602	1503	1478	1103	6686	6
NED	W-Europe	1750	1731	1615	1590	6686	7
IRL	W-Europe	1910	1751	1487	1128	6276	8
BEL	W-Europe	1760	1366	1230	1180	5536	
UKR	E and C Europe	1675	1460	1345	595	5075	
BRA	America	1832	1273	965	920	4990	
ITA	W-Europe	1593	960	928	740	4221	
ESP	W-Europe	1668	1098	755	495	4016	
KSA	Middle East	1316	1049	665	397	3427	
AUS	Asia	2037	468	395	375	3275	
POR	W-Europe	1483	700	320	260	2763	
MEX	America	870	585	548	535	2538	
POL	E and C Europe	733	615	532	325	2205	
AUT	W-Europe	798	590	394	290	2072	
AZE	E and C Europe	936	448	258	164	1806	
DEN	W-Europe	674	428	305	303	1710	
COL	America	1060	272	180	116	1628	
EGY	Middle East	569	421	418	185	1593	
QAT	Middle East	749	336	262	85	1489	
FIN	W-Europe	909	325	110	105	1449	
NOR	W-Europe	455	375	332	281	1443	
JPN	Asia	845	336	135	105	1421	
CHI	Asia	653	391	190	168	1402	
LTU	E and C Europe	945	211	105	45	1306	
RUS	E and C Europe	405	377	300	135	1217	
VEN	America	383	691	35	95	1204	
EST	E and C Europe	655	255	175	70	1155	
CHI	America	653	190	168	105	1116	
BAR	America	920				920	
UAE	Middle East	265	242	177	168	852	
PUR	America	385	385	17	11	798	
NZL	Asia	345	198	145	110	798	
HUN	E and C Europe	290	213	80	10	593	

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CZE	E and C Europe	256	182	76	70	584	
GEO	E and C Europe	500	18	3		521	
CAN	America	130	125	125	120	500	
TUR	E and C Europe	213	196	35	15	459	
RSA	Africa	125	119	90	83	417	
BLR	E and C Europe	211	105	55	35	406	
SVK	E and C Europe	138	122	86	55	401	
HKG	Asia	209	76	57	31	373	
BER	America	60	309			369	
LUX	W-Europe	105	105	35	5	250	
LIE	W-Europe	165	65	20		250	
INA	Asia	80	75	55	40	250	
SYR	Middle East	111	95	20	9	235	
JOR	Middle East	150	20	17	13	200	
CHN	Asia	61	50	44	28	183	
ISR	E and C Europe	126	25	25		176	
MAS	Asia	75	41	40	15	171	
LAT	E and C Europe	112	27	25	6	170	
GRE	E and C Europe	54	45	31	25	155	
DOM	America	130				130	
THA	Asia	85	17	15	2	119	
PHI	Asia	45	45	2		92	
KUW	Middle East	57				57	
ALG	Middle East	51	2			53	
MAD	Africa	45				45	
KOR	Asia	22	15	2	1	40	
HAI	America	40				40	
CRO	E and C Europe	15	11	7	1	34	
SLO	E and C Europe	8	5	4	4	21	
LIB	Middle East	10	5	2		17	
ECU	America	3	2	1		6	
ZIM	Africa	4				4	
SIN	Asia	1				1	

Region	fix quota	additional quota	total
W-Europe	3	7	10
E and C Europe	3		3
Americas	3	1	4
Middle East	3		3
Asia	3		3
Africa	1	0	1
			24

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This Nations Cup Series could possibly be considered eventually as a qualification for the Olympic Games.

All riders in the Semi Final and in the Final must have obtained a certificate of capability.