

'Structural stability'

If we apply this phrase and what it represents to the horse then it becomes much easier for us to discuss the methodologies of schooling and training the horse.

In other words; does the action we take as riders impede or have negative affect upon any and/or all of the horse's muscle structure?

For public input, here are two proposed rule changes to FEI, predicated upon the inconsistencies existing within the official governing members to enforce current rules.

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## **CHAPTER VI – PROTECTION OF ATHLETES AND HORSES**

### **Article 142 - Abuse of Horses**

1. No person may abuse a Horse during an Event or at any other time.

(a) The term "person" means: (i) any person who organizes, exercises control over, or administers or who is responsible for organizing, directing, or administering a competitive show; (ii) and/or any individual responsible for the care custody and control , in any manner, of any horse.

(b) The terms maltreatment, abuse/abusive and/or sore means any act that causes pain and/or discomfort to the horse as defined herein through; (i) a corrupt practice or custom (ii) improper or excessive use or misuse of equipment and schooling method (iii) physical maltreatment; resulting in "a state of physical or mental lack of well-being or physical or mental uneasiness that ranges from mild discomfort or dull distress to acute often unbearable agony" (iv) **and for the horse in any form of competition; "a corrupt practice or custom and improper or excessive use or treatment that 'habitually' causes distress and or discomfort to the horse"**.

"Abuse" means an action or omission which causes or is likely to cause pain or unnecessary discomfort to a Horse, including without limitation any of the following:

- To whip or beat a Horse excessively;
  - To subject a Horse to any kind of electric shock device;
  - To use spurs excessively or persistently;
  - To jab the Horse in the mouth with the bit or any other device;
  - To compete using an exhausted, lame or injured Horse;
  - To "rap" a Horse.
  - To abnormally sensitise or desensitise any part of a Horse;
  - To leave a Horse without adequate food, drink or exercise;
  - To use any device or equipment which cause excessive pain to the Horse upon knocking down an obstacle.
2. Any person witnessing an Abuse must report it in the form of a protest (Article 163) without delay. If an Abuse is witnessed during or in direct connection with an Event, it should be reported as a protest (Article 163) to an Official. If the Abuse is witnessed at any other time it should be reported as a protest

### **Article 401 OBJECT AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF DRESSAGE**

Request FEI to change any and all references to 'on the bit' to '*in the hand*'.

Request that Article 401 Part 5 be re-written to read as follows:

In all the work, even at the halt, the horse must be "in the hand". A horse is said to be "in the hand" when the neck is more or less raised and arched according to the stage of training with the lowest point of the underside of the jaw to be in front of a vertical line downward from the poll at 'all' times and with the poll being supple and the highest point at 'all' times as the head is held in a steady position, accepting the bridle with a light and consistent soft contact. The rider shall not compress the head and neck of the horse into any other position through excessive rein contact. At all times, the use of the snaffle bit as the primary bit is to be enforced, while excessive use of the curb shall call for deduction of points for failure to meet the description of 'in the hand'