

Shoeing and Equipment Checks

The equipment check is an important aspect of establishing a fair-play environment for our sport. Making sure our horses are properly shod is also part of our duty as horsemen to protect the welfare of horses in competition.

The Sport Committee has received reports of improper shoeing making it past the equipment checks last season. It is essential to catch these problems early in the season in the interests of horse welfare and out of respect for the riders.

All Sport Judges have been reminded it is their duty to demand a horse be reshod and/or disqualified according to the published rules in all cases of inappropriate shoeing. This applies equally to all riders from children and beginning riders through professional riders in the top sport tests at championship events. Of course, it can be a difficult challenge to diplomatically deliver the bad news of a disqualification for incorrect shoeing or equipment but this is a part of the job.

The following examples are cases where the horse must be reshod before being allowed to compete or disqualified if the rider competes with this shoeing in this condition.

These are only selected examples and not a complete list of the possible issues with unacceptable shoeing.



FIPO 1.1.1.3 Farriery and tack

Foot care and shoeing must be of a high standard.

This horse clearly was presented with shoeing that was much too old and no longer met the “high” standard or shape and length demands.



As shown by the arrow, this shoe was clearly too small for the hoof and the heels did not have proper support.

This example, clearly, does not fit the demands of FIPO 1.1.1.3 as an example of a high standard for shoeing. This horse should have been reshod before competing or disqualified if the shoeing was first seen during equipment check.



This was another example demonstrating old shoeing with the hoof wall from the quarters to the heels improperly supported.

FIPO calls for the horse to be reshod or disqualified.

FEIF DIRECTOR OF SPORT

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FIPO 2.3.4 Studs

Two ordinary studs per shoe, riveted, welded or screwed, one on each side of the heel of the shoe, are allowed.

This horse was presented with only one stud in the shoe. This is not allowed under FIPO 2.3.4. If studs are present there must be exactly two of them.



FIPO 2.3.2 Shoes

... [shoes] must be of an even shape.

The heel on this shoe was clearly not fitting to the demands of an even shape to the shoe.



FIPO 2.3.2 Shoes

... [shoes] must be of an even shape.

The heels on this shoe were another example of shoeing that did not fit to the demands of an even shape.

I encourage all riders who have even a remote concern about issues related to shoeing or tack to consult with the Chief Judge before competing to avoid any disappointment if problems are detected after the horse has been on the track.

I wish everyone a very successful competition season.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Smith'.

Doug Smith

FEIF Director of Sport

