

CHAPTER V: QUALIFYING FOR AND COMPETING IN FEI EVENTS

830. OVERVIEW

In order to promote good horsemanship and protect Horse welfare, the qualification system to compete in FEI Events at different star levels is based on (and rewards) successful completions of Competitions, which will be tracked for each Athlete and Horse. Similarly, repeated 'Failure to Qualify' and/or Disqualification, in particular where such designations are combined with high average speeds over the course, will be penalised to ensure that the Athlete learns to ride safely over a course at lower speed (see Article 837).

831. SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION

A '**successful completion**' of a Competition means that the Combination finished all of the Phases of the course in accordance with the applicable course requirements (maximum allotted time, correct order without short cuts, no prohibited assistance, etc), passed all of the Horse Inspections, complied with minimum weight requirements and any applicable speed restrictions, did not withdraw or retire, was not designated as 'Failed to Qualify', was not Disqualified during or after the Competition, and complied with any applicable Mandatory Out of Competition Period(s).

832. NOVICE QUALIFICATIONS

832.1 Subject to Article 832.4, all Horses and Athletes must have successfully completed their novice qualifications to be eligible to advance through the CEI star level qualification process.

832.2 Novice qualifications must be administered by each National Federation. The novice qualification eligibility form must be filled in on the FEI online platform prior to the relevant National Federation making the first FEI entry for the Athlete or Horse.

832.3 **Novice qualification procedure:** Horses and Athletes must have successfully completed (not necessarily as a Combination) two novice rides of 40-79 km (in one day) and two novice rides of 80-100 km each restricted to a speed of no more than 16 km/hour (calculated in accordance with Article 838.2). The required 80-100 km rides may be completed either as (i) two single-day events, or (ii) one single-day event and one multi-day event (for the multi-day event, 40-50km must be completed per day for two consecutive days at the same Competition). All qualifying novice rides must be completed within a two-year period.

832.4 Exemptions from novice qualification requirements:

832.4.1 A National Federation may ask the FEI to exempt an Athlete or Horse from the novice qualifications if they meet the conditions in Articles 832.4.2 (Horse) or 832.4.3 (Athlete).

832.4.2 The Horse will be granted an exemption from the novice qualifications if (i) it is eight years or older at the time of the request, and (ii) in the three years prior to the request it has successfully completed a cumulative minimum of 480 km in Competitions over

distances of 80 km, including at least one competition of 80km or more at the age of eight or older.

- 832.4.3 The Athlete will be granted an exemption from the novice qualifications if he has successfully completed a cumulative minimum of 480 km in Competitions over 80 km or more in the three years prior to the request.

833. CEI QUALIFICATIONS

- 833.1 The CEI star qualification level of an Athlete or Horse must be determined according to the FEI's records and database, and attested to by each National Federation.

- 833.2 Once an Athlete or Horse has qualified for a CEI star level, he/it may be referred to as an Athlete or Horse (as applicable) of that star level.

- 833.3 The qualification procedure for CEI star levels is set out below:

- 833.3.1 **CEI 1*:** Athletes and Horses are qualified to compete at the CEI 1* level once they have successfully completed all the novice qualifications, but no earlier than six months (for Athletes) and one year (for Horses) after the successful completion of their first novice ride. Athletes and Horses must successfully complete a CEI 1* within two years of qualifying for the CEI 1* level. If they fail to do so, they will lose their CEI 1* qualification and must update their novice qualifications to re-qualify for the CEI 1* level.

- 833.3.2 **CEI 2*:** Athletes and Horses are qualified to compete at the CEI 2* level once they have successfully completed two out of three consecutive CEI 1* within a two-year period.

- 833.3.3 **CEI 3*:** Athletes and Horses may only compete at the CEI 3* level if they are qualified as a Combination. To so qualify, they must have successfully completed (i) two out of three consecutive CEI 2*, and (ii) one CEI 2* together as a Combination (except for Athletes with Elite Status, see Article 861), all within a two-year period. (The Combination ride may be one of the two qualifying successful rides or may be a separate third ride).

834. COMPETING AT CEI EVENTS ONCE QUALIFIED

- 834.1 Once qualified for the CEI 1* and CEI 2* levels, there are no further requirements to compete at those levels.

- 834.2 If the Athlete and Horse are both individually qualified for the CEI 3* level, but in other Combinations (i.e. with other partners), they have to successfully complete one CEI 2* as a Combination to compete together in a CEI 3*. (Further to Article 833.3.3, Athletes with Elite Status are exempt from this Combination requirement).

835. VALIDITY OF CEI STAR LEVEL QUALIFICATION

- 835.1 Each CEI star level qualification achieved will be valid:

- 835.1.1 for Athletes, for five years; and
- 835.1.2 for Horses, for two years.
- 835.2 The validity period will begin to run from the day that a qualification is granted or renewed and (subject to Article 833.3.1) expire at midnight GMT on the last day of the applicable time period.
- 835.3 Each time an Athlete or Horse successfully completes a Competition at the level for which he/it has qualified, the Athlete's/Horse's qualification at his/its current level will be automatically revalidated by the FEI for the period set out in Article 835.1.
- 835.4 If an Athlete or a Horse fails to successfully complete a Competition at the level for which he/it has qualified within the period set out in Article 835.1, the Athlete/Horse will automatically drop down one level of qualification.
- 835.5 If an Athlete or Horse fails to revalidate a qualification within the period set out in Article 835.1 (and so drops down a level), to regain the expired qualification the Athlete or Horse must successfully complete one Competition at the lower level.
- 835.6 Each time an Athlete or Horse successfully completes a Competition at a level below that for which he/it has qualified, the Athlete's/Horse's qualification for that lower level will be automatically revalidated for the period set out in Article 835.1.

836. CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 836.1 To qualify for Championships, Horses and Athletes must have:
- 836.1.1 graduated through the qualifying processes for novice and CEI star qualifications, up to and including the star level of the Championship (for example, for a 2* Championship, the Athlete and Horse must each be qualified for the CEI 2* level); and
- 836.1.2 successfully completed the relevant additional number of CEIs (or CEIOs of the same star level) specified in the table below. Of those additional rides:
- (a) one or two (as specified in the table) must have been undertaken by the relevant Athlete and Horse as a Combination; and
 - (b) that ride (or one of those two rides) must have (i) been a single-day event over the same distance as the Championship (or greater distance), and (ii) taken place prior to, but no more than two years prior to, the deadline

for Nominated Entries for the Championship or 60 days prior to the Championship (whichever comes first).

Championship	Additional CEIs to be successfully completed and Combination requirements
1* Championships	Two out of three consecutive CEI 1* or higher, including one in Combination
2* Young Horse Championships	One CEI 2* in Combination
2* Young Rider/Junior Championships	Two CEI 2* or higher, including two in Combination
2* Senior Championships	Two CEI 2* or higher, including two in Combination
3* Senior Championships	Two CEI 3*, including one in Combination