



**FEI Nations Cup™ 100 YEARS**



# **RULES**

# **FEI NATIONS CUP SERIES**

**Approved by the FEI Bureau**

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**Effective for seasons**

**2009 and 2010**

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## RULES FOR THE FEI NATIONS CUP SERIES

### Meydan FEI Nations Cup™

#### 1. Selected events

A maximum of eight Top League events are selected by the Jumping Committee for the 2009 season; each event must have five-star status. A direct connection between selected events and participating teams in the Top League is not a criterion. A one-year contract for 2009 will be presented to the selected OCs and NFs for signature. Following the 2009 season, the Top League events will be reviewed. The Jumping Committee reviews the list of Top League events each year. It is the responsibility of each NF to select its CSIO. Not more than one CSIO event may be held per season in the same country.

Events selected for the Top League must meet the following criteria:

- A maximum global entry fee of 500 Euro per horse for all CSIO events may be charged. The maximum global entry fee per young horse at these events cannot exceed 250 Euro.
- Each selected event must respect the CSIO-5\* technical requirements;
- Each Nations Cup competition in the Top League must offer at least € 300,000 in prize money (**reduced to €200'000 for 2009**). The Grand Prix competition at these events must also offer a minimum of € 300,000 in prize money (**reduced to € 200'000 for 2009**);
- All selected events must follow a fixed competition format, with the main competitions taking place on Friday and Sunday. Depending on the current proven success of an event's Nations Cup competition relating to TV coverage and spectatorship, an exception may be granted.
- Events may be required by the FEI to have flood lights;
- Events must be held over at least four days;
- Excluding the Nations Cup competition, at least four competitions must count for Rolex Rankings points;
- The course will be the same in the first and second rounds;
- In principle the first round takes place in the morning or afternoon and the second round will take place later in the day at an optimal time with regard to TV coverage and spectator attendance. This could be during the evening possibly under flood lights.

#### 2. Selection of Teams for the Top League

For the 2009 season, ten teams have qualified for the Meydan FEI Nations Cup™ in the following manner: the best seven teams from the 2008 Samsung Super League with FEI have automatically qualified and three teams were selected based on the sum of the Rolex Ranking points of their NF's best four riders at 31 December 2008.

### 3. Procedure for promotion of teams to the Top League

- The two teams placed 9th and 10th in the season's Top League are relegated to the FEI Nations Cup Promotional League for the following season. Two teams are promoted for the coming season to the Top
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- League competitions from the Promotional League Final for the winning teams of the respective regional FEI Nations Cup Leagues.
- Qualification of teams from Regional Leagues for the Promotional League Final is based on a point system.
- All teams at the Promotional League Final start with zero points. Invited to the Promotional Final are the best six teams in the European Promotional League on points prior to the Final and the best placed team from each of the other Regional Leagues, as well as the home team if not among the qualified teams. For invitational purposes to the Promotional League Final teams tying for the last qualifying place in their own League will be separated according to the number of first, second or third placing and so on until there are no longer teams tying.

### 4. Declaration of Teams

Each NF with a qualified Top League team must commit itself in writing by 31 January to send its team to each of the eight Top League events for the coming season. NFs that do not respect their commitment and fail to participate at an event for any reason other than force majeure will lose all points gained up to that point and will not be invited to participate in the remainder of the series.

### 5. Substitution of Teams

Should a qualified team decide between 31 January and the deadline date for entries in principle of the first event (CSIO La Baule - FRA) not to take part in the Top League for the coming season, the team in question will be replaced by the next highest placed team in the FEI Nations Cup Promotional League Final. In case of teams tied for first place at the Final, there will be a jump-off (one rider per team); in case of teams tied for other placings, their final classification will be determined according to the times of their best three riders in both rounds.

(For the 2009 season the replacement team will be the next highest placed NF based on the sum of the Rolex Ranking points of their best four riders at 31 December 2008; see § 2.)

Teams not presenting themselves at a Top League CSIO or withdrawing from any Top League event during the season may be replaced by a team invited by the OC in consultation with the FEI. Qualified teams failing to participate at an event for any reason other than force majeure will lose all points gained up to that point and will not be permitted to participate in the remainder of the series.

## 6. Invitation of Individuals & Teams to Top League events

The maximum number of competitors that may be permitted to take part at any Top League event is 65. The rules for invitation of home riders as stipulated in the FEI Jumping Rules do not apply for Top League CSIO events.

Organisers have the right to invite a limited number of home/foreign individual riders from the home country and countries not represented by an official team to make up the total number of 65 riders. **It is at each Organiser's discretion to invite either** four or five riders, with a minimum of twelve horses, per team; **the same conditions must apply to all teams**

**at each event.** This also applies for the home team if not qualified as a Top League team.

## 7. Participation in the first and second round

Four riders per team take part in the first round of the Nations Cup Competition. Unless eliminated in the first round, the best eight of the ten qualified Top League teams take part in the second round with four riders each. In case of a tie for 8th place the times of the best three riders of each team will be added together and the team with the fastest time returns for the second round.

The home team, if not placed among the best eight in the first round, will be invited to return for the second round provided that its score from the 1st round does not exceed the score of the 8th placed team by more than eight penalties.

## 8. Participation of the home team

The home country, if not already qualified as a Top League team, has the right to take part in the first round of the Top League Nations Cup competition with four riders.

The home team, if not among the ten qualified Top League teams and if not placed among the best eight in the first round, will be invited to return for the second round provided that its score from the 1st round does not exceed the score of the 8th placed team by more than eight penalties.

## 9. Point System for each Top League competition

The following points (10 to 1) are given to the eight best-placed Top League teams in each Top League competition.

Placing	Points
1 <sup>st</sup>	10
2 <sup>nd</sup>	7
3 <sup>rd</sup>	6
4 <sup>th</sup>	5
5 <sup>th</sup>	4

6 <sup>th</sup>	3
7 <sup>th</sup>	2
8 <sup>th</sup>	1

In case teams are placed ex-aequo during any of the Top League competitions, the Top League points foreseen 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.

In Top League competitions where a non-Top League team (i.e. the home team if not among the ten qualified teams) is placed within the first eight places, Top League points are only given to Top League teams and, for the purpose of point distribution, Top League teams move up in the classification.

A qualified team not participating in the second round of Top League competitions will not receive points.

#### 10. Team classification at the end of the Top League season

The points obtained by each team in each of the eight Top League competitions are added together to establish the overall Top League classification at the end of each season.

In case of equality of points for any place on the overall Top League classification, teams are separated by giving preference to the team 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 if the necessity arises.

#### 11. Top League Season

The Top League calendar will consist of outdoor competitions commencing not earlier than two weeks following the Rolex FEI World Cup™ Final. The last competition must finish at least two weeks prior to the first FEI World Cup™ qualifier. The weekend prior to and during FEI Championships and Games must be kept free of Top League events. Five and possibly four-star CSI events are not permitted to clash with Top League events.

#### 12. Prize Money

The prize money for each Top League Nations Cup competition must not be less than € 300,000- **(reduced to € 200'000 for 2009)**.

All teams (eight/nine-home) in the second round of each Top League competition receive prize money. **The prize money is to be distributed as follows:**

	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>
8 teams	64,000	40,000	32,000	24,000	16,000	11,000	8,000	5,000	N/A
9 teams	64,000	40,000	32,000	23,000	15,000	10,000	7,000	5,000	4,000

A team which is eliminated in the first round of a Top League competition is not entitled to either prize money or points for the Top League.

### 13. Grand Prix participation

The 18 best-placed competitors following rounds one and two in each Top League competition are automatically qualified to take part in the Grand Prix competition at the same event. Those equal on penalties for 18th place are separated by their times in the first and second rounds of the Nations Cup competition. In total the two best-placed competitors of the teams not qualified for the second round will qualify for the Grand Prix competition providing that their score in the first round does not exceed four penalties. In case of a tie, competitors will be separated by their time in the first round. The qualification system for the remaining places in the Grand Prix will be printed in the event Schedule (maximum total participants in Grand Prix = 50).

### 14. Title of Top League competition

It is obligatory for 2009 for FEI Nations Cup Top League competitions to be called: **Meydan FEI Nations Cup™**.

### 15. Teams placed equal in Top League competitions

Top League teams placed equal with a non-Top League team (i.e. the home team, if not among the ten qualified teams) in Top League competitions receive the entire number of points foreseen for the overall Top League classification in question. (refer to § 9). Top League points cannot be transferred to the FEI Nations Cup Promotional League.

### 16. Relegation of Top League Teams

The two last placed teams in the overall standings at the end of each season will be relegated to the FEI Nations Cup Promotional League. Teams tying on points for either of the last two places in the final classification of the Top League are separated by relegating the two teams with the greatest number of last places in the Top League competitions. If further ties exist the teams with the greatest number of second last places are relegated and so on until a tie no longer exists.

### 17. Points for the Rolex Rankings

Each Nations Cup competition at Top League events will offer points for the Rolex Rankings based on penalties obtained in each round (refer to the Rules for the Rolex Rankings, calculation of points Column HH:

Double clear	130
One clear and one up to four	90
One clear	65
Two up to four	50
One up to four	25

## RULES FOR THE FEI NATIONS CUP SERIES

### Promotional League

#### 18. Composition

Each Regional series in the FEI Nations Cup Promotional League consists of all three to five-star CSIO events and possibly selected CSIO-2\* events. These series serve as a qualification for the FEI Promotional League Final. Two teams will be promoted to the Top League each season through the Promotional League Final. Qualified teams participating at the Final start with zero points.

Events selected for the Promotional League must meet the following criteria:

- A maximum global entry fee of 500 Euro per horse for all CSIO events may be charged. The maximum global entry fee per young horse at these events cannot exceed 250 Euro.
- Each selected event must respect the prize money requirements for the relevant star level category, according to CSI/CSIO requirements.
- All CSIO-3\* Nations Competitions in the Promotional League must use the obstacle dimensions established for CSIO-4\* Nations Cup competitions (refer to Art. 264.3)
- All CSIO-2\* Nations Competitions in the Promotional League must use at least the obstacle dimensions established for CSIO-3\* Nations Cup competitions (refer to Art. 264.3)

#### 19. Invitations

The current rules as laid down in the FEI Jumping Rules relating to invitation of teams and individuals apply.

After two thirds of the season, the top three teams in the FEI Nations Cup Promotional League – Europe have the right to participate in all the remaining competitions of the Promotional League – Europe (for the 2009 season this will commence with CSIO Tallin - EST).

#### 20. Wild Cards

Before each season commences, NFs are required to present to the FEI Headquarters a plan indicating the Promotional League CSIO events they wish to attend during the coming season.

The FEI has the right to nominate one wild card team for each three, four and five-star CSIO event in the Promotional League. Requests for wild card invitations from NFs are screened by:

- CSIO representative
- FEI Headquarters representative

In case of a dispute, the organisers' and the chefs d'équipes' representatives are consulted.

Requests for wild cards must be made at least nine weeks before the event in question is due to commence. Wild cards are allocated by the FEI eight weeks

before each event is due to take place. Requests for wild cards are co-ordinated by the FEI Director of Jumping.

## 21. Duration of FEI Nations Cup Promotional League season

Each Regional League in the FEI Nations Cup Promotional League season commences with the first Nations Cup competition following the FEI Nations Cup Promotional League Final and finishes with the last competition in the League prior to the Final.

## 22. Point System

**22.1.** A country that belongs to one of the ten Top League teams cannot earn points for the FEI Nations Cup Promotional League.

**22.2.** The following points are given to teams placed in competitions included in the FEI Nations Cup Promotional League.

### CSIO-2\* events:

N° of Teams participating	8 and more	7	6	5	4	3
Placing						
1	7	6	5	4	3	2
2	6	5	4	3	2	.5
3	5	4	3	1	.5	.5
4	4	3	2	.5	.5	
5	3	2	.5	.5		
6	2	.5	.5			
7	.5	.5				
8	.5					

### CSIO-3\*, CSIO-4\* & CSIO-5\* events

*[same point system to be used for all 3\*, 4\* & 5\* events in Promotional League]*



Nu of Teams participating	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3
1	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4
2	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
3	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
4	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
5	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
6	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1			
7	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1				
8	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1					
9	7	6	5	4	3	2	1						
10	6	5	4	3	2	1							
11	5	4	3	2	1								
12	4	3	2	1									
13	3	2	1										
14	2	1											
15	1												

**22.3.** The total number of Nations Cup results that count for each team is six.

**22.4.** Non-Top League teams participating in FEI Nations Cup Promotional League competitions receive points for the FEI Nations Cup Promotional League according to their classification in each competition.

## 23. Participation

Nations with a Top League team can also send a team, if invited, to events in the FEI Nations Cup Promotional League. These teams may participate in the Nations Cup competition but cannot earn points in competitions of the Promotional League. However, such teams are entitled to be classified in these competitions and are entitled to receive prize money.

Competitors and horses that participate in the Nations Cup competition at Top League events are not prohibited from taking part in the competitions of the Promotional League.

## 24. Prize Money

The following minimum prize money must be offered for Nations Cup competitions in the Promotional League:

- Five-star competitions CHF 80'000.-. Promotional League
- Four-star competitions CHF 30'000.-. Promotional League
- Three-star competitions CHF 30'000.- Promotional League
- Two-star competitions CHF 15'000 – Promotional League

A team which is eliminated in the first round of a Nations Cup competition is not entitled to either prize money or points for the Promotional League.

## 25. Final

A selected event of the Promotional League will serve as the Final. Invited to participate are the six best teams on point standings in the Promotional League - Europe prior to the Final plus the best team on point standings from each of the other Regional Leagues in the Promotional League. Teams tying

for 6<sup>th</sup> place in the Promotional League - Europe or for 1st place in the Regional Leagues will be separated for invitational purposes to the Final according to the number of first, second or third placing and so on until there are no longer teams tying. If a qualified team decides not to participate in the Final, the next highest placed team from the relevant League is selected as a replacement team.

At least CHF 80'000 must be provided as prize money for the Nations Cup competition at the Promotional League Final.

Teams must take part at the Final to qualify for the FEI Nations Cup Top League.

The home team is also permitted to take part if not qualified for the Final but will not be entitled to qualify for the Top League. All teams return for the second round with four riders each.

## **26. Promotion**

The two best-placed teams in the FEI Nations Cup Promotional League Final are promoted to the Top League for the coming season. In case of teams tied for first place at the Final, there will be a jump-off (one rider per team); in case of teams tied on penalties for other placings, their final classification will be determined according to the times of their best three riders in both rounds.

## **27. Participation of FEI Nations Cup teams in the Promotional League**

From the 2010 season OCs in the European Promotional League in the first two thirds of the season are obliged to invite the teams placed 3rd to 6th in the previous season's Promotional League Final and the teams relegated from previous season's Top League (for 2009, in the first two thirds of the season OCs must invite 2nd to 5th placed teams of the 2008 Nations Cup series. An exception may be made by the FEI to this rule for CSIO-5\* events with a team in the Top League.

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