



# **RULES**

# **FEI NATIONS CUP™ SERIES**

**Effective for season**

**~~2011~~2012**

Updated ~~5 May 2011~~ **14 November 2011**

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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 ~~Rules for Jumping Events~~ **FEI Jumping Rules (JRs)**, and all other relevant FEI rules and regulations. 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.

### TOP LEAGUE

#### 1. Selected Events

A maximum of eight ~~(8)~~ Top League Events (each of which must have five-star status) are selected by the Jumping Committee for the ~~2011–2012~~ season. A direct connection between selected Events and participating teams in the Top League is not a criterion.

The list of Top League Events will be reviewed by the Jumping Committee each year.

It is the responsibility of each NF to select its CSIO. No more than one ~~(1)~~ CSIO Event may be held per season in the same country with the exception of Spain which hosts the FEI Nations Cup™ Promotional League Final in Barcelona.

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

- A maximum global entry fee of 500 Euro per horse and 250 Euro per young horse for all CSIO Events may be charged;
- Each selected Event must respect the CSIO5\* technical requirements in effect at the time;
- Each Nations Cup Competition in the Top League must offer at least € 200,000 in prize money. The Grand Prix Competition at these Events must also offer a minimum of € 200,000 in prize money;
- All selected Events must in principle 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 at the sole discretion of the FEI;
- Events may be required by the FEI to have flood lights;
- Events must be held over at least four ~~(4)~~ days;
- **In addition to Excluding** the Nations Cup Competition, ~~at least~~ four **other** Competitions must count for Rolex Rankings points;
- The course must be the same for the first and second rounds.

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

The ~~2011–2012~~ season is open to the following teams:

- The six highest placed teams from the ~~2010–Meydan~~ **2011** FEI Nations Cup™ **Top League** Series;
- The highest placed team from the ~~2010–2011~~ FEI Nations Cup™ Promotional League Final;

- The highest placed Team on the FEI Nations Cup™ European Promotional League standings immediately prior to the ~~2010–2011~~ FEI Nations Cup™ Promotional League Final.

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

#### 3.1 2012 Season

Two teams are promoted to the ~~2011–2012~~ FEI Nations Cup™ Top League season: the highest placed team at the ~~2010–2011~~ FEI Nations Cup™ Promotional League Final and the highest placed team ~~in~~**on** the ~~FEI Nations Cup–~~European Promotional League standings immediately prior to the ~~2010–2011~~ FEI Nations Cup™ Promotional League Final. Should the highest placed team at the **2011** FEI Nations Cup™ Promotional League Final **or the highest placed team on the European Promotional League standings immediately prior to the 2011 Final** decline to take part in the **2012** FEI Nations Cup™ Top League ~~for the coming season it~~ **the team in question** will be replaced by the next highest placed team ~~on the European Promotional League standings immediately prior to~~ **at** the ~~2010–2011~~ Promotional League Final until such time as a team accepts participation.

#### 3.2 2013 Season (text below moved from previous Art. 25)

The following two teams will be promoted to the FEI Nations Cup™ Top League each season:

- the highest placed team in the FEI Nations Cup™ Promotional League Final; and
- the highest placed team in the European Promotional League standings immediately prior to the Final.

In case of equality of points for the highest placed team in the European Promotional League standings immediately prior to the Final, 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 until there are no longer any teams tying.

Should the highest placed team at the 2012 FEI Nations Cup™ Promotional League Final decline to take part in the 2013 FEI Nations Cup™ Top League it will be replaced by the next highest placed team at the 2012 Promotional League Final. Should the highest placed team on the European Promotional League standings immediately prior to the 2012 Final decline to take part in the 2013 FEI Nations Cup™ Top League the team in question will be replaced by the next highest placed team on the European Promotional League standings immediately prior to the 2012 Promotional League Final until such time as a team accepts participation.

### 4. Declaration of Teams

Each NF with a qualified FEI Nations Cup™ Top League team must commit itself in writing by 31 January to send its team to each of the eight ~~(8)~~ FEI Nations Cup™ Top League Events for the coming season.

NFs that commit themselves in writing and then do not respect their commitment by failing to participate at an Event for any reason other than

Force Majeure will lose all points gained up to that time and will not be invited to participate in the remainder of the Series.

## 5. Substitution of Teams for the FEI Nations Cup™ Top League

Should a qualified team decide between 31 January and the deadline date for entries in principle of the first Event ~~in 2011~~ **of the season** not to take part in the FEI Nations Cup™ Top League, the team in question will be replaced by the next highest placed team in the ~~2010 FEI Nations Cup~~ European Promotional League standings immediately prior to the ~~2010~~ **previous year's** FEI Nations Cup™ Promotional League Final until such time as a team accepts participation.

Teams not presenting themselves at a FEI Nations Cup™ Top League CSIO or withdrawing from any FEI Nations Cup™ Top League Event during the season may be replaced by a team invited by the Organising Committee in consultation with the FEI. Such a team is not eligible for FEI Nations Cup™ Top League points.

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

The maximum number of Athletes that may be permitted to take part at any FEI Nations Cup™ Top League event is ~~sixty (60)~~.

The rules for invitation of home Athletes as stipulated in the ~~JRs FEI Jumping Rules~~ do not apply for FEI Nations Cup™ Top League CSIO Events.

**Each Organiser must invite at least five Athletes as individuals from NFs not represented by a team, to be selected from the Rolex Rankings in descending order until the 30<sup>th</sup> position. There is no limit on the number of Athletes per NF among these five individuals. If the OC cannot fill the quota of five Athletes from the top 30 on the Rolex Rankings, they may invite the athlete(s) of their choice. In addition, Organisers have the right to invite a limited number of home/foreign individual Athletes from the home country and countries not represented by an official team. However, the total number of Athletes must not exceed 60.**

Each Organiser must agree to invite five ~~(5)~~ Athletes per participating team, with a minimum of ~~fifteen (15)~~ horses per team. For the avoidance of doubt, this similarly applies to the home team if not qualified as a Top League team.

For small tour competitions only at Top League Events, Organisers may invite a total of three ~~(3)~~ foreign Individual Athletes, but no more than one per NF, from countries participating with a team. These three Athletes are in addition to the ~~sixty (60)~~ Athletes permitted to be invited to Top League Events.

## 7. Participation in the first and second round

Four ~~(4)~~ Athletes per team take part in the first round of the Nations Cup Competition. Unless eliminated in the first round, the eight ~~(8)~~ qualified **FEI Nations Cup™ Top League** teams must take part in the second round with a maximum of four ~~(4)~~ Athletes each. ~~The home team, if not placed among the best eight (8) in the first round, will be invited to return for the second round provided that its score in the 1st round does not exceed the score of the 8th placed team by more than eight (8) penalties.~~

### 8. Participation of the home team

The home country, if not already qualified as a ~~Nations Cup~~-Top League team, has the right to take part in the first round of the ~~Top League~~-Nations Cup Competition with four ~~(4)~~-Athletes.

The home team if not a ~~Nations Cup~~-Top League team and if not placed among the best eight ~~(8)~~ in the first round, will be invited to return for the second round provided that its score from the ~~1st~~-**first** round does not exceed the score of the ~~8th~~-**eighth** placed team by more than eight ~~(8)~~ penalties.

### 9. Point System for each Top League Competition

The following points (10 to 1) are given to the eight ~~(8)~~ best-placed FEI Nations Cup™ 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 equal during any of the **FEI Nations Cup™** Top League Competitions, the Top League 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.

Top League points may only be earned by Top League teams. Therefore, in a FEI Nations Cup™ Top League Competition where a non-Top League team (i.e. the home team if not among the eight ~~(8)~~ qualified teams) is placed within the first eight ~~(8)~~, the Top League team placed immediately below **the home team** ~~it~~ will move up in the classification for purposes of Top League point distribution. (For example, if Country A is the home team but not a Top League team and it ranks ~~5<sup>th</sup>~~-**fifth** out of ~~9~~-**nine** and Country B ranked ~~6<sup>th</sup>~~-**sixth** out of ~~9~~-**nine** and is a Top League team, Country B will receive Top League points as if it had placed ~~5<sup>th</sup>~~-**fifth** and each team ranked below Country B will move up one ranking for purposes of Top League point distribution.)

FEI Nations Cup™ Top League teams placed equal with a non-Top League team (i.e. the home team, if not among the eight ~~(8)~~ qualified teams) in ~~Nations Cup~~-Top League Competitions receive the entire number of points set forth above for the overall Top League classification in question. Top League points cannot be transferred to the FEI Nations Cup™ Promotional League.

A team not participating in the second round of a Top League Competition 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 ~~(8)~~ FEI Nations Cup™ Top League Competitions are added together to establish the overall Top League classification at the end of each season.

In case of a tie for any place on the overall FEI Nations Cup™ 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 until the tie is broken.

If after applying this method there is still a tie for ~~1st~~ first place or for ~~6th~~ sixth place at the conclusion of the last event of the season, preference will be given to:

- the team with the greater number of clear rounds among the scores counting (i.e. maximum three scores per round per team) from each competition throughout season;
- —If there is still a tie the scores counting (i.e. maximum three scores per round per team) of each team from each competition will be added together and preference will be given to the team with the lowest overall score.

If there is still a tie for ~~1st~~ first or ~~6th~~ sixth place a jump-off with one rider per team will take place at the last event of the season. —Teams tied for any placing other than ~~1st~~ first or ~~6th~~ sixth will remain tied in the overall classification. No Athlete will be required to take part in more than one jump-off, that is for example if a jump-off is required to decide the ~~1st~~ first place classification for the last competition and to separate teams tying for either 1st place in the overall standings or ~~6th~~ sixth place in the overall standings of the FEI Nations Cup™ Top League. In case a team is involved in more than one tie, that team will participate in one jump-off only; the score of the Athlete representing his team in the jump-off counts as his team result to break the ties involved.

## 11. Top League Season

The FEI Nations Cup™ Top League calendar will consist of outdoor Competitions commencing not earlier than two ~~(2)~~ weeks following the Rolex FEI World Cup™ Final. The last Competition must finish at least two ~~(2)~~ weeks prior to the first FEI World Cup™ qualifier in the Rolex FEI World Cup™ Western European League. The weekend prior to and during the FEI Senior Championships and Olympic / Pan Am Games must be kept free of Top League Events. In Europe five and possibly four-star CSI events are not permitted to clash with Top League events (**this provision is suspended for the 2012 calendar year**).

## 12. Prize Money

The prize money for each Top League Nations Cup Competition must not be less than € 200,000.

Only teams (eight/nine-home) competing in the second round of each Top League Competition receive prize money. **The prize money is 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>
<b>8 teams</b>	<b>64,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>9 teams</b>	<b>64,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>4,000</b>

A team which is eliminated (**see JRs Art. 264.8.1 and 264.8.2**) in the first round of a Top League Competition is not entitled to either prize money or points for the Top League (~~Art. 264.8.1~~).

### 13. Grand Prix participation

#### 13.1 Qualification Format

Each organiser must provide two (2) opportunities for each Athlete to qualify for the Grand Prix Competition. The first qualifier is held prior to the Nations Cup Competition and is open to all Athletes. The Nations Cup Competition counts as a qualifier for the team Athletes. The third qualifier is held following the Nations Cup Competition and counts as a qualifier for the non-team Athletes and those Athletes not taking part in the second round of the Nations Cup. Both the first and third qualifiers must have a minimum standard of 1.50m.

#### 13.2 Number of Athletes in the Grand Prix

The Grand Prix at all FEI Nations Cup Top League Events is open to a minimum of ~~forty (40)~~ and a maximum of ~~fifty (50)~~ Athletes.

#### 13.3 Qualified Athletes (for CSIO Aachen and CSIO Dublin refer to Art. 13.4)

**13.3.1** The ~~eighteen (18)~~ best-placed Athletes following rounds one and two in each Top League FEI Nations Cup 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 combined times in the first and second rounds of the Nations Cup Competition. .

**13.3.2** The four ~~(4)~~ best-placed Athletes, taken from the non-team Athletes and those Athletes not taking part in the second round of the Nations Cup, in the third qualifier are also automatically qualified for the Grand Prix.

**13.3.3** Notwithstanding the above, the following Athletes are automatically qualified for the Grand Prix at all Top League Events, as per ~~Jumping Rules Annex IV~~ **JRs Art. 261.4.1.1** :

The individual medal winners (Athletes) of the last Olympic and Pan American Games and World and Continental Championships, as well as the first placed Athlete/Horse combination in the last FEI World Cup™ Final, and

- The winner (Athlete/Horse combination) of the Grand Prix at any CSIO5\* Event during the previous twelve months.

Should a pre-qualified rider under the provisions of 13.3.3 be placed among the best ~~eighteen (18)~~ after the two rounds of the Nations Cup, his qualification place under 13.3.1 will not be given to another Athlete.

**13.3.4** The quota of Athletes established by the Organizing Committee for the Grand Prix Competition must be filled from Athletes from the first qualifier.

**13.4 Qualified Athletes at CSIO Aachen and CSIO Dublin**

**13.4.1** The ~~eighteen (18)~~ best-placed Athletes following rounds one ~~(1)~~ and two ~~(2)~~ in each Top League FEI Nations Cup Competition are automatically qualified to take part in the Grand Prix Competition at the same Event. Those equal on penalties for 18<sup>th</sup> place are separated by their combined times in the first and second rounds of the Nations Cup Competition.

**13.4.2** Notwithstanding the above, the following Athletes are automatically qualified for the Grand Prix at all Top League Events, as per ~~Jumping Rules Annex IV JRs Art. 261.4.1.1~~:

The individual medal winners (Athletes) of the last Olympic and Pan American Games and World and Continental Championships, as well as the first placed Athlete/Horse combination in the last FEI World Cup™ Final.

- The winner (Athlete/Horse combination) of the Grand Prix at any CSIO5\* Event during the previous twelve months.

Should a pre-qualified rider under the provisions of 13.4.2 be placed among the best ~~eighteen (18)~~ after the two ~~(2)~~ rounds of the Nations Cup, his qualification place under 13.4.1 will not be given to another Athlete.

**13.4.3** The quota for the remaining qualification places must be filled according to the conditions set forth in the Event Schedule.

**14. Title of FEI Nations Cup™ Top League Competition**

It is obligatory for FEI Nations Cup™ Top League Competitions to be called: **[Sponsor Name] FEI Nations Cup™**.

**15. Relegation of Top League Teams**

The two ~~(2)~~ last placed teams in the overall standings at the end of each season will be relegated to **their respective Regional League of the FEI Nations Cup™ Promotional League. However, the seventh placed team will be given the opportunity to participate in that year’s FEI Nations Cup™ Promotional League Final, through which it may attempt to qualify for the following season’s Top League.**

**16. 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~~):

<del>Double clear</del>	<del>130</del>
<del>One clear and one up to four</del>	<del>90</del>
<del>One clear</del>	<del>65</del>
<del>Two up to four</del>	<del>50</del>
<del>One up to four</del>	<del>25</del>



# RULES FOR THE FEI NATIONS CUP™ SERIES

## PROMOTIONAL LEAGUE

### 17. Composition

**The FEI Nations Cup™ Promotional League is made up of the following Regional Leagues: the European Promotional League, the Challengers League, the North and South American Promotional League and the Middle East Promotional League (refer to Articles 17.1, 17.2, 17.3 and 17.4 for details of each Regional League).** Each Regional ~~series~~ League in the FEI Nations Cup™ Promotional League consists of ~~three to five star~~ CSIO3\*/CSIO4\*/CSIO5\* events and possibly selected CSIO2\* events. These ~~Series~~ **Regional Leagues** serve as a qualification for the FEI Nations Cup™ Promotional League Final.

Events selected for the **FEI Nations Cup™** Promotional League (all Regional Leagues) must meet the following **minimum** criteria:

- A maximum global entry fee of 500 Euro per Horse and 250 Euro per Young Horse for all CSIO Events may be charged;
- Each selected Event must respect the prize money requirements for the relevant star level category, according to the CSI/CSIO Requirements;
- Quality and size of stables must be in accordance with FEI requirements;
- Stable security must be in accordance with FEI requirements;
- Quality of footing must be in accordance with FEI requirements;
- Expenses for accommodation/meals for Athletes/chefs/officials must be in accordance with FEI requirements.
- All CSIO3\* Nations **Cup** Competitions in the **FEI Nations Cup™** Promotional League (**all Regional Leagues**) 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;**
- ~~Any CSIO2\* Nations Competitions in the Promotional League must use at least the obstacle dimensions established for CSIO3\* Nations Cup Competitions (refer to JRs Art. 264.3) and offer a minimum amount of prize money of 30'000 CHF for the Nations Cup and 30'000 CHF for the Grand Prix.~~

~~The European continent is divided into two Leagues: the European Promotional League and the Challengers League.~~

#### 17.1. European Promotional League

##### 17.1.1 Composition

The European Promotional League will be composed of a ~~minimum of six (6) and a~~ maximum of ~~eight (8)~~ **six European** Events. In addition to the criteria established for all Regional Leagues under Art. 17, all Events selected for the European Promotional League must meet the criteria set forth in 17.1.2.

##### 17.1.2 Criteria

- **Each Event must be at least CSIO4\* level.** Minimum overall prize money for the Event is CHF ~~150'000~~ **250'000**;
- ~~Minimum prize money for the Grand Prix and the Nations Cup (refer also to Art. 23) Competitions is CHF 30'000 for CSIO2\* events.~~
- **Refer to Art. 23 for the minimum prize money to be offered for the Nations Cup Competition;**

- ~~• Courses of the Nations Cup Competition at CSIO3\* events must be built according to the dimensions established for 4\* Nations Cup Competitions (as set forth in Jumping Rules Art. 264.3).~~
- ~~• Course plans for the Nations Cup Competition at CSIO3\* Events must be sent to the FEI HQ for approval prior to the Event.~~
- Quality and size of stables must be in accordance with FEI requirements;
- Stable security must be in accordance with FEI requirements;
- Quality of footing must be in accordance with FEI requirements;
- Expenses for accommodation/meals for Athletes/chefs/officials must be in accordance with FEI requirements.

### 17.1.3 ~~Participation~~ Invitation of teams

Organisers must invite at least the ~~2<sup>nd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>~~ **second to fifth** placed teams from the previous year's European Promotional League standings, plus the team(s) relegated from the ~~2010~~ Top League **the previous year**. ~~The~~ OCs may invite additional teams should they wish to do so.

**OCs must invite five Athletes and at least 12 Horses per team.**

### 17.1.4 Participation in the first and second round

**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 six best placed European Promotional League teams according to their classification in the first round, if not eliminated; the exact number of teams to return in the second round is to be established by the OC and must be stated in the Schedule. Teams taking part in the second round participate with a maximum of four Athletes per team. Teams that are not part of the European Promotional League but are eligible to take part in the second round are entitled to earn prize money but may not obtain points.**

## 17.2 Challengers League

### 17.2.1 Composition

The European Events that are not selected for the European Promotional League will form the Challengers League, providing the minimum requirements set forth in **Art. 17 and** Art. 17.2.2 are met.

### 17.2.2 Criteria

- Minimum overall prize money for the Event is CHF 70,000;
- Minimum prize money for the Grand Prix ~~and the Nations Cup (refer also to Art. 23)~~ Competitions **at CSIO2\* Events** is CHF 30'000;
- **Refer to Art. 23 for the minimum prize money for the Nations Cup Competition.**
- ~~• Quality and size of stables must be in accordance with FEI requirements;~~
- ~~• Stable security must be in accordance with FEI requirements;~~
- ~~• Quality of footing must be in accordance with FEI requirements;~~
- Courses of the Nations Cup Competition at ~~CSIO2\* and CSIO3\*~~ **all** Events **in the Challengers League** must be built **at least** according to the dimensions established for 4\* Nations Cup Competitions (~~as set forth in refer to Jumping Rules~~ **JRs** Art. 264.3); the ~~€~~ course plans for the Nations Cup Competition at CSIO2\* and CSIO3\* Events must be sent to FEI HQ for approval prior to the Event.

### 17.2.3 Invitation of teams

**Organisers of Challengers League Events may invite teams of their choice but in any case must invite teams from the FEI Nations Cup™ Promotional League that have declared to take part in the Challengers League. OCs have the option to invite, at their discretion, four or five Athletes per team.**

## **17.2.4 Participation in the first and second round**

**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 six best placed Challengers League teams according to their classification in the first round, if not eliminated; the exact number of teams to return in the second round is to be established by the OC and must be stated in the Schedule. Teams taking part in the second round participate with four Athletes per team. Teams that are not part of the Challengers League but are eligible to take part in the second round are entitled to earn prize money, but may not obtain points.**

## **17.3 North and South American League**

### **17.3.1 Composition**

**The North and South American League consists of CSIO3\*, CSIO4\* and CSIO5\* Events and possibly selected CSIO2\* Events in FEI Groups IV, V and VI, providing the minimum requirements set forth in Art. 17 and Art. 17.2.2, as well as the following, are met.**

- Any CSIO2\* Nations Cup Competitions in the Promotional League must use at least the obstacle dimensions established for CSIO3\* 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. ~~and~~**
- The OC must offer- a minimum amount of prize money of 30'000 CHF for the Nations Cup and CHF 30'000 CHF for the Grand Prix.**
- Refer to Art. 23 for the minimum prize money for the Nations Cup Competition.**

### **17.3.2 Invitation of teams**

**Organisers of North and South American League Events may invite teams of their choice. OCs have the option to invite, at their discretion, four or five Athletes per team.**

### **17.3.3 Participation in the first and second round**

**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.**

## **17.4 Middle East League**

### **17.4.1 Composition**

**The Middle East League consists of CSIO3\*, CSIO4\* and CSIO5\* events in FEI Group VII, providing the minimum requirements set forth in Art. 17 and Art. 17.2.2 above are met.**

### **17.4.2 Invitation of teams**

**Organisers of Middle East League Events may invite teams of their choice. OCs have the option to invite, at their discretion, four or five Athletes per team.**

## 17.4.3 Participation in the first and second round

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.

## 17.5 Participation of the home team in the second round (all Regional Leagues)

As per JRs Art. 264.7.

### ~~17.3 Points~~

~~Teams from countries in the Challengers League may participate in the European Promotional League and vice versa and therefore full points may be obtained in both Leagues. However, before the start of the season, each team must declare to the FEI the League from which they wish to qualify for the Final.~~

## 18. Invitations

For the avoidance of doubt, the current rules in the ~~JRs – FEI Jumping Rules~~ relating to invitation of teams and individuals apply to all **Regional Leagues of the FEI Nations Cup™** Promotional Leagues ~~and to the Challengers League~~.

## 19. Wild Cards

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

The FEI has the right to nominate one ~~(1)~~ wild card team for each three, four and five-star CSIO event in **all Regional Leagues of the FEI Nations Cup™** 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 will be consulted.

Requests for wild cards must be made at least nine ~~(9)~~ weeks before the Event in question is due to commence. Wild cards are allocated by the FEI eight ~~(8)~~ weeks before each Event is due to take place. Requests for wild cards are co-coordinated by the FEI Director of Jumping.

## 20. Duration of **the FEI Nations Cup™** Promotional League ~~and Challengers League~~ season

Each Regional League in the FEI Nations Cup™ Promotional League ~~and the Challengers 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. NB: If the last Competition in the League is held the week before the Final, it will count for the standings of the following season.

## 21. Point System

**21.1.** A country that belongs to one of the Top League teams ~~cannot~~ **may not** earn points for **any of the Regional Leagues of the FEI Nations Cup™** Promotional League ~~or for the Challengers League~~. **Points may not be transferred between any of the Regional Leagues of the FEI Nations Cup™**



Promotional League; teams may only obtain points at Events in their own Regional League or in the Regional League in which they have declared participation before the start of the season. NFs wishing to participate in a different Regional League from the one in which they are geographically located must declare to the FEI, before the start of the season, in which Regional League they wish to earn points. European NFs must declare to the FEI, before the start of the season, whether they wish to participate for points in the European Promotional League or in the Challengers League. NFs that do not declare to the FEI in which League they wish to earn points will be placed in the Regional League in which they first participate.

**21.2.** The following points are given **only** to ~~teams placed in Competitions included in the Promotional League and the Challengers League~~ **the eight best placed eligible teams in each FEI Nations Cup™ Promotional League Competition of the respective Regional League**, regardless of the star level of the Event. For the avoidance of doubt, eligible teams are teams that are geographically located in, or have declared participation in (refer to Art. 21.1), the Regional League in question (e.g. only teams that have declared participation in the European Promotional League are eligible to earn points in European Promotional League Competitions, only teams declared for the Challengers League are eligible to earn points in Challengers League Competitions etc.).

Placing	Points
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>7</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>3</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>2</b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1</b>

In case eligible teams are placed equal during any of the FEI Nations Cup™ Promotional League Competitions of their Regional League, 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.

In an FEI Nations Cup™ Promotional League Competition where a non-declared team (e.g. a Top League team or a team from another Regional League) is placed within the first eight, the next best placed eligible team (i.e. the next best placed team participating for points in that Regional League) will move up in the classification of that Competition for purposes of point distribution (same principle as used for the Top League as outlined in Art. 9). Eligible teams that are not qualified to participate in the second round of any FEI Nations Cup™ Promotional League Competition in their respective Regional League will receive points based on their result in the first round, if not eliminated.

Eligible teams placed equal with a team not declared for the Regional League in question receive the entire number of points set forth above for the overall FEI Nations Cup™ Promotional League classification of that Competition.

No of Teams participating	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3
Placing													
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												

**21.3.** The maximum number of Nations Cup results **that count for each team participating for points in any of the Regional Leagues of the FEI Nations Cup™ Promotional League** ~~the Promotional League and the Challengers League that count for each team~~ is six.

**21.4.** Non-Top League teams participating in ~~Promotional League or Challengers League~~ Nations Cup Competitions **at their declared FEI Nations Cup™ Promotional League Events, or if they have not declared, in the League of the first Competition in which they participate,** receive points for **their respective Regional League** ~~the Promotional League or Challengers League~~ according to their classification in each Competition. **Refer to Art. 21.2.**

## 22. Participation

Nations with a Top League team ~~can~~**may** also send a team, if invited, to Events in the **FEI Nations Cup™ Promotional League** ~~and the Challengers League~~. These teams may participate in the Nations Cup Competition but ~~cannot~~**may not** earn points in Competitions of the **FEI Nations Cup™ Promotional League** ~~or the Challengers League~~. However, such teams are entitled to be classified in these Competitions and are entitled to receive prize money.

Athletes and horses that participate in the Nations Cup Competition at Top League Events are not prohibited from taking part in the Competitions of the **FEI Nations Cup™ Promotional League** ~~or the Challengers League~~.

## 23. Prize Money for the Nations Cup Competition

~~All CSIO2\*/CSIO3\*/CSIO4\* to 4\*~~ Nations Cup Competitions in all Regional Leagues ~~and the Challengers League~~ must offer prize money of at least CHF 30'000. CSIO5\* Nations Cup Competitions **in all Regional Leagues** must offer prize money of at least CHF 80'000. ~~(Refer to Articles 17, 17.1.2 and 17.2.2 for prize money requirements for Grand Prix competitions.)~~

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 League standings.

## 24. FEI Nations Cup™ Promotional League Final

A selected Event of the European Promotional League will serve as the **FEI Nations Cup™ Promotional League** Final.

## 24.1 Participation

Invited to participate are:

- ~~the seventh placed team of the FEI Nations Cup™ Top League final standings;~~
- the teams placed ~~2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>~~ **second to fourth** on point standings in the European Promotional League **prior to the Final;**
- ~~and 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>~~ **the teams placed first to third on point standings** in the Challengers League prior to the Final **and.** ~~In addition;~~
- the best team on point standings from each of the other Regional Leagues **in the Promotional League prior to the Final is also invited.**

Teams tying for ~~4<sup>th</sup>~~ **fourth** place in the European Promotional League, for ~~3<sup>rd</sup>~~ **third** place in the Challengers League, or for ~~1<sup>st</sup>~~ **first** place in the other Regional Leagues will be separated for invitational purposes to the Final according to the number of first, second or third placings 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.

The home team is also permitted to take part if not qualified for the Final but in this case will not be entitled to qualify for the Top League. **Unless eliminated in the first round, A** all teams return for the second round with a maximum of four ~~(4)~~ Athletes each.

Except for the leading team on the European Promotional League standings prior to the FEI Nations Cup™ Promotional League Final, a team must take part in the Final in order to qualify for the FEI Nations Cup™ Top League **the following year.**

## 24.2 Prize Money

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

## 24.3 Classification

Qualified teams participating in the Final start with zero points.

In case of teams tied for first place in the Final, there will be a jump-off (one Athlete per team); in case of teams tied on penalties for **any** other placings, their final classification will be determined according to the combined times of their best three Athletes in both rounds.

## ~~25. Promotion~~ (text has been moved to Art. 3)

~~The following two teams will be promoted to the FEI Nations Cup Top League each season:~~

- ~~the highest placed team in the FEI Nations Cup Promotional League Final;~~
- ~~and~~
- ~~the highest placed team in the European Promotional League standings immediately prior to the Final.~~

~~In case of equality of points for the highest placed team in the European Promotional League standings immediately prior to the Final, 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 until there are no longer any teams tying.~~

## Rules for the FEI Nations Cup™ Series



~~Should the highest placed team at the 2011 FEI Nations Cup Promotional League Final or the highest placed team on the European Promotional League standings immediately prior to the 2011 Final decline to take part in the 2012 FEI Nations Cup Top League the team in question will be replaced by the next highest placed team at the on the European Promotional League standings immediately prior to the 2011 Promotional League Final until such time as a team accepts participation.~~