



WELFARE OF THE HORSE - MARES WITH FOAL AT FOOT



SAEF CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE WELFARE OF THE HORSE

Following a recent case reported to the SAEF regarding a mare that competed in a show a mere 3 months after foaling down, we would like our members to please take note of the following:

The SAEF Veterinary Regulations (page 7) state the following:

e) Pregnant/recently foaled mares

Mares must not compete after their fourth month of pregnancy or with foal at foot.

Here's a more detailed explanation:

Welfare Focus:

The SAEF's Code of Conduct and Veterinary Rules for the Welfare of the Horse prioritizes the well-being of horses, and this rule reflects that, preventing mares from competing during pregnancy and immediately after foaling.

Pregnancy Restrictions:

Mares are prohibited from competing after the fourth month of pregnancy.

Foal at Foot Restriction:

Mares are also prohibited from competing with a foal at foot, meaning they cannot compete while still caring for their foal. Foals are weaned at *about 4 to 6 months*, when their nutritional needs begin to outpace their mothers' milk supply.

Competing a mare while she's still nursing a foal can stress both mare and foal due to separation anxiety, the mare's distraction and the foal's need for maternal care, potentially leading to behavioral problems and even foal rejection.

Competing a mare while she's still nursing a foal can stress both mare and foal, potentially impacting the mare's milk production and the foal's calcium uptake, especially if the mare is stressed or separated from her foal.

Minimum sanction for this offence is a three-month suspension and R10 000 fine.

WE URGE MEMBERS TO FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES OF HORSE WELFARE AS PER THE SAEF VETERINARY REGULATIONS

FEI SAFEGUARDING COURSE ON FEI CAMPUS

NEW SAFEGUARDING COURSE ON FEI CAMPUS PROTECTING PARTICIPANTS IN EQUESTRIAN SPORT AGAINST HARASSMENT AND ABUSE

The FEI, in partnership with [#WeRideTogether](#), has developed an online Safeguarding training course accessible to everyone involved in equestrian sport. The course provides basic awareness on safeguarding participants against harassment and abuse, explaining why safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and provides guidance on the actions we can each take to protect ourselves and others.

The course is free of charge, is available on [FEI Campus](#) and is accessible to all, and in particular is aimed at athletes, coaches, grooms, parents, officials, administrators and volunteers; from recreational to elite level sport. Currently available in English, it is planned to translate the content into other languages over the coming year.

In total, the course takes approximately 90 minutes to complete and includes short video clips, graphics and a short quiz at the end of each section. You can pause, save, and come back later to the training at any time. There are additional sections for athletes, parents, coaches and grooms, which whilst specific to these communities can and should be completed by all. At the end of the course, participants should have a better understanding of the following:

Harassment and abuse in sport – why it occurs, what it is, how to recognise it.

What actions you can take – to protect yourself and others, and to make the sport environment a safe, inclusive and supportive environment.

How to respond to, and how and where to report incidents of harassment and abuse.

Each participant will receive a certificate of completion upon finishing the course.

The FEI is committed to taking action to encourage a culture of respect and understanding and to help ensure equestrian sport can be enjoyed by all in a safe, inclusive and supportive environment. The FEI Policy on Safeguarding Participants against Harassment and Abuse was introduced in 2019 and in recent years a number of awareness raising initiatives for National Federations have been implemented; this Safeguarding course builds on these initiatives.

The FEI would like to thank [#WeRideTogether](#) for their support and partnership in delivering this Safeguarding training course.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION APPLICABLE TO ALL DISCIPLINES

In South Africa, the South African flag is a symbol of achievement, with riders who have earned SA Protea Colours.

Only these riders are permitted to display the SA Flag on their competition attire.

As per our **SAEF Colours Policy**, the use of the South African flag, the colours of the National team, the positioning of the national emblem and the use of sponsor's logos on all kit are determined by the SAEF.

All kit designs must be submitted to the SAEF before the team kit is purchased for approval.

Please ensure that you adhere to these guidelines to continue being in good standing with the SAEF.

**USE OF THE
SOUTH AFRICAN FLAG
ON RIDING KIT**

