

Protocol - application of FEI Veterinary Regulations Article 1004.4 – Unnatural foam

FEI Veterinary Regulations Article 1004.4

It is strictly forbidden to use any type of substance/product inside or around the Horse's mouth and/or tongue that may (i) imitate, induce or cause foaming; and/or (ii) coat or otherwise cover, or partially cover the bit. The prohibition excludes the use of products permitted in the FEI Tack App and the provision of permitted natural treats given in moderation. Contravening this rule will entail a Yellow Warning Card and Elimination.

Purpose of the rule

To prevent horses at FEI Events being trained, warmed up and/or competed with unnatural foaming i.e., thick and/or sticky, in and around horses' mouths caused by the use of substances/products that may imitate, induce or cause foaming and / or coat or otherwise cover, or partially cover the bit. The purpose of the rule is to avoid use of these substance / products to mask issues in the oral cavity such as discoloration of the tongue.

Guidelines

A preventive approach should be applied – where an FEI Official observes a horse that they strongly suspect of having thick, sticky foam covering the tongue/gums or around its mouth, the FEI Official must intervene, stop the horse and request the PR to immediately wipe or rinse the mouth of the horse.

- If the observation is done during training or warm-up, the Chief Steward must report this to the Ground Jury President. The incident must be reported in the Judge Report with name of the Horse and PR.
- If the observation is made during competition i.e. while the horse is in the field of play/competition arena, the Ground Jury must have the horse inspected at the end of the round / performance / test, the foam is to be documented by photo/video and a swab sample to be collected (wipe from tongue/gum/lips).

If the foam is thick and sticky, the combination must be eliminated and the PR given a Yellow Warning Card. The photos/video and swab are to be sent to the FEI Veterinary Department together with a written report signed by the President of the Ground Jury.

Evidence Gathering – unnatural foam

In case of an observation made during competition on the Field of Play / Competition Arena

1. Use clean disposable gloves
2. Test if the foam is sticky / unnatural by taking the foam between your index finger and thumb and spreading the two fingers apart. Unnatural foam sticks to the gloves. Natural saliva is lubricant.
3. A. If the foam does NOT stick to the gloves, the test is negative - no further action is taken

3. B. If the foam sticks to the gloves, the test is positive - proceed with evidence gathering
- Take photos/video of the foam. Make sure to include the lips/tongue/gum
 - Put the disposable gloves used in 2) in a re-sealable plastic bag. Seal and mark the bag with date and time for collection, event venue, name of the horse and PR. Sign the bag with your name. Request that the PR also signs the bag.
 - Pack the sealed bag in an extra plastic bag and a cardboard box etc.
 - Send as registered/tracked package to:
Fédération Equestre Internationale
FEI Veterinary Department
HM King Hussein I Building
Chemin de la Joliette 8
1006 Lausanne, Switzerland
 - Send the photos/video and the shipment number etc. to veterinary@fei.org
 - The finding should be reported via the Judge Report
 - FEI will reimburse cost for the shipment

Examples of unnatural foam – sticky and thick



Photos by Anders Deros

Examples of natural saliva – lubricant and non-sticky



Photo by FEI

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Permitted natural treats

- Apples, carrots or other fruits/berries/vegetables traditionally given to horses as treats
- Bread traditionally given to horses as treats
- Feed pellets (stud cubes etc)
- Sugar cubes (without binding material)

Disclaimer – Be mindful to use treats that does not contain any FEI Prohibited Substance

Avoid using at FEI Events during training, warm up and competition

Manufactured treats that cause unnatural foaming e.g., sugar based with binding materials such as gelatine, bee wax, gum arabica/gum acacia