

Guidelines: Hereditary Disorders

ref.: Blue Book 2023, art. 32 a) and b)

Blue Book, Rules for Conduct of Shows, art. 32 a) Overbite/underbite

At ECAHO Shows, overbite/underbite more than 1 width of tooth is not permitted. Horses 12 months old and older cannot compete unless they have a veterinary certificate to verify that they do not have overbite/underbite.

Blue Book, Rules for Conduct of Shows, art. 32 b) Cryptorchidism

At ECAHO Shows, cryptorchidism is not permitted. Colts 24 months old and older or stallions cannot compete unless they have a veterinary certificate to verify that they do not have cryptorchidism. If the colt's condition changes, and upon a completed veterinary certificate, the horse is then eligible to compete.

DECLARATION

Sample declaration is available on www.ecaho.org in Downloads/Forms & Reports.

How to handle the declaration:

1. The above rules enter into force on 1st August 2023 for all shows organized in accordance with the Blue Book 2023, or for those organized before 1st August 2023, but which are conducted under the Blue Book 2023 rules. The above rules do not apply to shows conducted under the Blue Book 2022 rules.
2. A Transition period for the application of the above rules applies from 1st August 2023 until 31st December 2023.
3. Show organizers are recommended to ask for a declaration to be submitted together with the entry form. If not submitted, the organizer may remind the Person Responsible (PR) that the declaration must be handed over in original at latest at the show.
4. All exhibitors are required to have an original of the declaration available at the identification check to present to the DC.
5. In case of doubt, the DC is allowed to carry out spot checks. Any horse for which there is a negative declaration but in fact has a hereditary disorder, will not be allowed to participate and the Person Responsible will be penalized with a fine of 500 Euro. The original of the declaration of such horse will be kept by the DC.
6. Any case of cheating (submitting a declaration which is not corresponding to the condition of the horse) will be investigated by the SDC, and the Person Responsible may be further penalized (in addition to the fine of EUR 500). In case of the horse being expelled from the showground by the DC, the DC collect all evidence available at the showground.
7. Judges may ask the handler to open the horse's mouth (this rule remains unchanged).
8. Until 31st December 2023: The DCs will apply reasonable discretion when applying the above rules and further explain them if questions arise. Exhibitors who do not submit the certificate will not yet be disqualified. The horse will be allowed to participate after having been checked by the DC on site and after payment of a fee of EUR 50.
9. On and after 1st January 2024: All horses without certificate will not be allowed to participate at ECAHO shows. The DCs will strictly apply the Blue Book rules and issue disciplinary measures.