



International Mounted Games Association Rules Committee

Rule Change Request Document

Name:	Dr. Widukind Moormann
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Country:	Germany
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Summary of Change Requested:

Change of GR 1.6

Current Rule Book Wording:

Riders and/or ponies may be substituted if the rider or pony in question is unable to continue due to injury or illness as confirmed by a certified health professional or vet respectively. A pony may also be substituted if the referee deems the pony to be unsafe. Once a rider or pony has been substituted, they are not able to play any further part in the competition.

Suggested New Rule Book Wording:

A pony/rider combination may be substituted before or after any completed session during the competition. During a session a pony/rider combination may be substituted if the rider or pony in question is unable to continue due to injury or illness as confirmed by a certified health professional or vet respectively. A pony/rider combination may also be substituted if the referee deems the pony to be unsafe. Once a pony/rider combination has been substituted out, they are not able to play any further part in the ongoing session. In the event that a rider or pony has finally ended the competition due to injury or illness as confirmed by a certified health professional or vet respectively, the remaining reserve rider or pony can only be substituted one time.

Reason for Change Request:

Having trained the German national team in the open for many years I have witnessed a few systematic problems with GR 1.6 during IMGA World and European Team Championships. My main concern is that the reserve riders are not feeling to be a full part of the team because at least when everything goes to plan, they won't compete. Many times have I seen unhappy riders when selected to be the reserve rider. Countries that travel long distances struggle to motivate people to make the trip as reserve riders. Because of this a few associations have already contractually secured that before the team selection starts, that whoever is picked as reserve rider has to fulfil their role.

Arriving at the competition itself I have talked to numerous reserve riders that didn't enjoy the competition as a full member of the team. Nevertheless, it has been shown many times in the past that a reserve rider/pony combination is necessary. During my time as trainer of the German open

team we have taken advantage of the reserve rider many times due to injuries in the original line up. However, I have also witnessed a number of cases where a team that wasn't fortunate to have a reserve rider had more than one injury and a continuation of the competition required an infringement of the GR 1.6, which then created problems and required the other competing teams (trainers) to agree to the best possible scenario for that team to continue. If there is a continuous violation of GR 1.6 why not change it in a way that everyone will benefit from? Obviously, it is difficult to motivate people to spend thousands of Euros or Pounds to watch the competition from the side-line. In order to get the best experience for the reserve riders but also for the team I want to propose a rule change that allows the trainer to use the reserve rider as a full member of the team.

As before only five riders will enter the ring for each session. A 6th rider/pony combination can be substituted in between sessions. With the start of the first race of a session the next substitution can only take part after the session has finished. A substitution of a rider/pony combination can only take place during a session if a horse or rider gets injured or a pony is unsafe. I want to point out that the substitution should be of a rider & pony combination to prevent that stronger riders may take advantage of the reserve rider, by bringing two ponies for themselves, and thus to undo the intention of this application.

In the case that the line up of the 6 rider/pony combinations is not complete and a pony or rider has ended the competition due to injury or illness it is possible to substitute just a pony or a rider at the end of a session or during the session after a further injury in the 5 competing combinations. But this substitution can only happen once.

I know this problem has been partly solved at the Europeans as the reserve rider can take part in the Open European Individuals. This however is only consistently the case for open riders as the European Individuals is not available for the younger age groups. Also in order to not violate GR 1.10 a reserve rider that needs to replace an injured rider has to drop out of the Individual competition.

For Internal Use Only:

Reference:	2021 – 02
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Submission Date:	27/01/2021
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Decision Date:	30/01/2021
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Votes	
Jens Martin	Not in Favour
Mark Crowe	Not in Favour
Robin Donnay	Not in Favour
Davy Quinn	Not in Favour
Margaret Welsby	Not in Favour
Alun Whitney	Not in Favour
Total In Favour:	0
Total Not In Favour:	6

Result:	Change Not Accepted
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Actual Adopted New Rule Book Wording:

N/A

Reason for Decision:

All members of the rules committee were present at the AGM in November where this suggestions was first debated so it was not unfamiliar to anybody and that explains the quick turn around of this particular request. In the event there was virtually no appetite from anybody on the committee for this change for a variety of reasons, all of which were already raised at the AGM.

Implementation Date:	N/A
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