



RULES

FEI NATIONS CUP SERIES

Approved by the FEI Bureau

November 2009

**Effective for season
2010**

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RULES FOR THE FEI NATIONS CUP™ SERIES

Top League

1. Selected events

A maximum of eight Top League events are selected by the Jumping Committee for the **2010** season; each event must have five-star status. A direct connection between selected events and participating teams in the Top League is not a criterion. A one-year contract for **2010** will be presented to the selected OCs and NFs for signature.

Following the **2010** season, the Top League events will be reviewed. The Jumping Committee reviews the list of Top League events each year.

It is the responsibility of each NF to select its CSIO. Not more than one 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 for all CSIO events may be charged. The maximum global entry fee per young horse at these events cannot exceed 250 Euro;
- Each selected event must respect the CSIO-5* technical requirements;
- Each Nations Cup competition in the Top League must offer at least € 300,000 in prize money (**reduced to €200'000 for 2010**). The Grand Prix competition at these events must also offer a minimum of € 300,000 in prize money (**reduced to € 200'000 for 2010**);
- 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;
- Events may be required by the FEI to have flood lights;
- Events must be held over at least four days;
- Excluding the Nations Cup competition, at least four competitions must count for Rolex Rankings points;
- The course will be the same in the first and second rounds.

2. Selection of Teams for the Top League

The 2010 season is open to the following teams:

- **The seven highest placed teams from the 2009 Meydan FEI Nations Cup series;**
- **The two highest placed teams from the 2009 FEI Nations Cup Promotional League Final.**

Or

- **The seven highest placed teams from the 2009 Meydan FEI Nations Cup series;**
- **Plus the British team depending the decision of the FEI Tribunal / CAS;**
- **The two highest placed teams from the 2009 FEI Nations Cup Promotional League Final.**

The 2011 season is open to the following teams:



- **The six highest placed teams from the 2010 Meydan FEI Nations Cup series;**
- **The highest placed team from the 2010 FEI Nations Cup Promotional League Final;**
- **The highest placed Team on the FEI European Nations Cup Promotional League standings prior to the 2010 FEI Nations Cup Promotional League Final.**

3. Procedure for promotion of teams to the Top League

- Two teams are promoted for the **2010** season to the Top League competitions from the FEI Nations Cup Promotional League Final.
- **Two teams are promoted to the 2011 FEI Nations Cup Top League season: the highest placed team at the 2010 FEI Nations Cup Promotional League Final and the team highest placed on the FEI Nations Cup Promotional League standings prior to the 2010 FEI Nations Cup Promotional League Final. Should the highest placed team at the FEI Nations Cup Promotional League Final decline to take part in the FEI Nations Cup Top League for the coming season it will be replaced by the next highest placed team on the European Promotional League standings prior to the 2010 Promotional League Final.**

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 FEI Nations Cup Top League events for the coming season.

NFs that do not respect their commitment and fail to participate at an event for any reason other than force majeure will lose all points gained up to that point and will not be invited to participate in the remainder of the series.

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

5.1. Season 2010

Should a qualified team decide between 31 January and the deadline date for entries in principle of the first event in **2010** 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 **2009** FEI Nations Cup Promotional League Final.

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.

5.2. Season 2011

Should a qualified team decide between 31 January and the deadline date for entries in principle of the first event in 2011 not to take part in the FEI Nations Cup Top League, the team in question will be replaced by the next highest placed team on the FEI European Nations Cup Promotional League standings prior to the FEI Nations Cup Promotional League Final.

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

6.1. Season 2010

The maximum number of athletes that may be permitted to take part at any FEI Nations Cup Top League event is 65 **if the number of teams taking part is ten.**

The maximum number of athletes that may be permitted to take part at any FEI Nations Cup Top League event is 60 if the number of teams taking part is nine.

The rules for invitation of home athletes as stipulated in the FEI Jumping Rules do not apply for FEI Nations Cup Top League CSIO events.

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.

Each Organiser **must** invite **five** athletes per team, with a minimum of twelve horses per team. This also applies for the home team if not qualified as a Top League team.

6.2. Season 2011

The maximum number of athletes that may be permitted to take part at any FEI Nations Cup Top League event is 60.

The rules for invitation of home athletes as stipulated in the FEI Jumping Rules do not apply for FEI Nations Cup Top League CSIO events.

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.

Each Organiser must invite five athletes per team, with fifteen horses per team. This also applies for the home team if not qualified as a Top League team.

7. Participation in the first and second round

7.1 Season 2010

Four athletes per team take part in the first round of the Nations Cup Competition. Unless eliminated in the first round, the best eight of the **nine**/ten qualified Top League teams take part in the second round with four athletes each. In case of a tie for 8th place the times of the best three athletes of each team will be added together and the team with the fastest time returns for the second round.

The home team, if not placed among the best eight 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 penalties.

7.2 2011 Season and onwards

Four athletes per team take part in the first round of the Nations Cup Competition. Unless eliminated in the first round, the eight qualified Nations Cup Top League teams must take part in the second round with four athletes each.

8. Participation of the home team

8.1 Season 2010

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 athletes.



The home team, if not among the **nine**/ten qualified Top League teams and if not placed among the best eight in the first round, will be invited to return for the second round provided that its score from the 1st round does not exceed the score of the 8th placed team by more than eight penalties.

8.2 2011 Season and onwards

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 athletes.

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

9. Point System for each Top League competition

The following points (10 to 1) are given to the eight best-placed FEI Nations Cup Top League teams in each Top League competition.

Placing	Points
1 st	10
2 nd	7
3 rd	6
4 th	5
5 th	4
6 th	3
7 th	2
8 th	1

In case teams are placed ex-aequo during any of the Nations Cup Top League competitions, the Top League points foreseen 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 FEI Nations Cup Top League competitions where a non-Top League team (i.e. the home team if not among the **nine**/ten qualified teams) is placed within the first eight, Top League points are only given to Top League teams and, for the purpose of point distribution, Top League teams move up in the classification.

FEI Nations Cup Top League teams placed equal with a non-Top League team (i.e. the home team, if not among the **nine**/ten qualified teams in 2010 and if not among the **eight** qualified teams in 2011) in Nations Cup Top League competitions receive the entire number of points foreseen 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 Nations Cup Top League competitions are added together to establish the overall Top League classification at the end of each season.

In case of equality of points for any place on the overall 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 if the necessity arises.

11. Top League Season

The Nations Cup Top League calendar will consist of outdoor competitions commencing not earlier than two weeks following the Rolex FEI World Cup™ Final. The last competition must finish at least two weeks prior to the first FEI World Cup™ qualifier in the Rolex FEI World Cup™ Western European League. The weekend prior to and during 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.

12. Prize Money

The prize money for each Top League Nations Cup competition must not be less than € 300,000- **(reduced to € 200'000 for 2010)**.

Only teams (eight/nine-home) in the second round of each Top League competition receive prize money. **The prize money is distributed as follows:**

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th
8 teams	64,000	40,000	32,000	24,000	16,000	11,000	8,000	5,000	N/A
9 teams	64,000	40,000	32,000	23,000	15,000	10,000	7,000	5,000	4,000

A team which is eliminated 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

The 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 times in the first and second rounds of the Nations Cup competition. The qualification system for the remaining places in the Grand Prix will be printed in the event Schedule (maximum total participants in GP = 50).

Each organiser must provide two 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 counts as a qualifier for the non-team athletes. Both the first and third qualifiers must have a minimum standard of 1.50m. Members of teams not qualified for the second round of the Nations Cup competition may try to qualify for the Grand Prix through the third qualifying competition.

14. Title of FEI Nations Cup Top League competition

It is obligatory for 2010 for FEI Nations Cup Top League competitions to be called: **Name of Sponsor FEI Nations Cup™**.

15. Relegation of Top League Teams

The two last placed teams in the overall standings at the end of each season will be relegated to the FEI Nations Cup Promotional League. (Applies for 2011 season onwards)



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):

Double clear	130
One clear and one up to four	90
One clear	65
Two up to four	50
One up to four	25



RULES FOR THE FEI NATIONS CUP™ SERIES

Promotional League

17. Composition

Each Regional series in the FEI Nations Cup Promotional League consists of three to five-star CSIO events and possibly selected CSIO-2* events. These series serve as a qualification for the FEI Promotional League Final.

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

- A maximum global entry fee of 500 Euro per horse for all CSIO events may be charged. The maximum global entry fee per young horse at these events cannot exceed 250 Euro;
- Each selected event must respect the prize money requirements for the relevant star level category, according to CSI/CSIO requirements;
- All CSIO-3* Nations Competitions in the Promotional League must use the obstacle dimensions established for CSIO-4* Nations Cup competitions (refer to Art. 264.3);
- Any CSIO-2* Nations Competitions in the Promotional League must use at least the obstacle dimensions established for CSIO-3* Nations Cup competitions (refer to Art. 264.3).

18. Invitations

The current rules as laid down in the FEI Jumping Rules relating to invitation of teams and individuals apply.

After two thirds of the season, the top three teams in the FEI Nations Cup Promotional League – Europe have the right to participate in all the remaining competitions of the Promotional League – Europe (for the 2010 season this will commence with CSIO Drammen / NOR)

19. Wild Cards

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

The FEI has the right to nominate one wild card team for each three, four and five-star CSIO event in the 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 are consulted.

Requests for wild cards must be made at least nine weeks before the event in question is due to commence. Wild cards are allocated by the FEI eight 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 FEI Nations Cup Promotional League season

Each Regional League in the FEI Nations Cup Promotional 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 ten-Top League teams cannot earn points for the FEI Nations Cup Promotional League.

21.2. The following points are given to teams placed in competitions included in the FEI Nations Cup Promotional League.

CSIO-3*, CSIO-4* & CSIO-5* events

[same point system to be used for all 3, 4* & 5* events in Promotional League]*

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 total number of Nations Cup results that count for each team is six.

21.4. Non-Top League teams participating in FEI Nations Cup Promotional League competitions receive points for the FEI Nations Cup Promotional League according to their classification in each competition.

22. Participation

Nations with a Top League team can also send a team, if invited, to events in the FEI Nations Cup Promotional League. These teams may participate in the Nations Cup competition but cannot earn points in competitions of the Promotional 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 Promotional League.

23. Prize Money

The following minimum prize money must be offered for Nations Cup competitions in the Promotional League:

- Five-star competitions CHF 80'000.-. Promotional League
- Four-star competitions CHF 30'000.-. Promotional League
- Three-star competitions CHF 30'000.- Promotional League

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 Promotional League.



24. Final

A selected event of the Promotional League will serve as the Final. Invited to participate are the teams **placed 2nd to 7th** on point standings in the Promotional League - Europe prior to the Final plus the best team on point standings from each of the other Regional Leagues in the Promotional League. Teams tying for **7th** place in the Promotional League - Europe or for 1st place in the 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.

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

The home team is also permitted to take part if not qualified for the Final but will not be entitled to qualify for the Top League. All teams return for the second round with four athletes each.

Except for the leading team on FEI Nations Cup Promotional League points prior to the FEI Nations Cup Promotional League Final a team must take part at the Final to qualify for the FEI Nations Cup Top League.

Qualified teams participating at the Final start with zero points.

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

25. Promotion

Two teams will be promoted to the Nations Cup Top League each season through the Promotional League: **the highest placed team at the FEI Nations Cup Promotional League Final and the team highest placed on the FEI Nations Cup Promotional League standings prior to the FEI Nations Cup Promotional League Final.**

26. Invitation of FEI Nations Cup teams in the Promotional League

For the 2010 season OCs in the European FEI Nations Cup Promotional League in the first two thirds of the season (up to and including CSIO Istanbul/TUR) are obliged to invite the teams placed 3rd to 6th in the previous season's FEI Nations Cup Promotional League Final and the teams relegated from previous season's FEI Nations Cup Top League. For the **2011** season OCs in the Promotional League must invite in the first two thirds of the season the 2nd to 5th placed teams of the **2010 Promotional League Final.**

5 January 2010