

Now What?

Irritation over an apparent decision by FEIF to (again) allow the use of flash nosebands in combination with curb bits

A commentary by Barbara Schnabel

There was a significant amount of confusion in recent days over the message – by now definitely denied by FEIF – that flash nosebands in combination with curb bits would (again) be allowed for international sport competitions in 2015.

IPZV sport leader Carsten Eckert had commented a few days ago, while talking to the fee-based on-line portal Isibless that the IPZV would definitely not follow in that decision.

On the evening of December 16th the IPZV homepage finally published comments about this topic, also by Carsten Eckert. We had asked the IPZV the day before why this important topic had not been first communicated there where it belonged, i.e. the club's homepage.

Quote: "At this time FEIF has made no decision about any changes to the equipment rules for 2015. This was confirmed today by FEIF sport leader Doug Smith."

On December 17th Doug Smith commented on the website in detail that no decision had been made, and that there had simply been a discussion on the topic.

The FEIF sport director recommended during his statement not to pay too much attention to the horse-tabloid websites (the horse tabloid press).

<http://www.ipzv.de/newsdetail-15/items/stellungnahme-feif-von-doug-smith.html>

Fortunately. Without the announcements on said websites – and the further distribution via the large social networks – the associations might have avoided the interest the Icelandic horse community will in all likelihood show towards the final decisions that will be expected in February 2015.

It might be a good idea if the IPZV were to openly and in a timely fashion publish any discussions from conferences which concern the mental and physical wellbeing of our horses and fair-minded riding, and make them available to everybody!

It is hard to imagine that an association that is home to 40% of all of FEIF's members worldwide and hosts almost 50% of all events, does not send a representative to the FEIF conference in Malmö at the end of October who could then clearly report what and when something was

or will be decided upon, and what was simply being discussed.

Tölt.Knoten definitely takes this embarrassing back and forth as a reason not to wait for decisions from FEIF, but to prepare a special on this topic. This special will clearly explain the mode of action of flash nosebands in combination with curb bits – by the way, a combination that is not allowed in competitions of any other discipline. We will of course campaign for not again allowing this unspeakable combination in sport competitions, and also to have it finally forbidden in breeding competitions!

And we will continue to inform via newsletter and facebook.

Text: Barbara Schnabel

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