

Annex F Consultation with Athletes

1 Appointment of Athlete Representative

Prior to the Athletes' first opportunity to inspect the Cross Country course every Organising Committee of an international Event must appoint an Athlete Representative from among the Athletes taking part in the Competition having first obtained that Athlete's consent.

This Athlete Representative has the task of acting as a channel of communication between the Athletes and the Officials on any matter directly connected with the Event without in any way removing the right of any Athlete to speak to the Organising Committee, Technical Delegate, Ground Jury, or Course Designer. The name of this Athlete must be notified to the Athletes at the briefing if one is held or posted prominently on the Event notice board if no briefing takes place.

2 Chairman of Arbitration and Investigation Panel

The Organising Committee will appoint prior to the start of the Competition the Chairman of an Arbitration and Investigation Panel (see point 9 below).

3 First meeting of Athletes called by the Athlete Representative - 1st Horse Inspection

At the end of the day on which the First Horse Inspection is held there will be a meeting of all Athletes should they so wish to be called by the Athlete Representative. The Technical Delegate and representative of the Organising Committee should attend although not the Ground Jury unless specifically requested by the Technical Delegate, Organising Committee or the Athlete Representative.

4 Second meeting of Athletes called by the Athlete Representative - after 1st day of Dressage Test

If the Event is a Long format Competition (CCI) with two days of Dressage the Athlete Representative has the right, if there are any concerns amongst the Athletes, to ask for an Athletes' meeting to take place at the end of the first day of Dressage to discuss major issues concerning the obstacles on the course and/or the distances of the course.

This meeting must be attended by the Ground Jury, Technical Delegate, Course Designer, and a senior representative from the Organising Committee (If there are no issues the Athlete Representative may advise the Technical Delegate who will contact the Organising Committee and the Ground Jury and cancel the meeting).

5 Meeting Minutes

At this meeting any such issues must be recorded in writing (the Technical Delegate & Athlete Representative have this responsibility) and the response of the Ground Jury also recorded in writing and signed by the President of the Ground Jury and the Athlete Representative.

6 Additional Athlete Representative

At this stage the Athletes may appoint two additional people (to join the already appointed Athlete Representative) as Athlete Representative's to continue the discussions with the Officials and the Organising Committee. These additional two people can be anyone that the Athletes choose and do not necessarily have to be competing at the Competition.

7 Final Athletes Meeting of the Athletes before the Cross Country

A further and final Athletes' meeting, attended, as before, by all the Officials and a representative from the Organising Committee, is now required.

Ahead of this meeting the written response by the Ground Jury to any written concerns of the Athletes raised the previous evening shall be given to the Athlete Representative's. At this meeting any final briefing of the Athletes will take place.

If the Athletes are still dissatisfied with the decisions of the Ground Jury a vote will be taken. This should be a secret vote and the Organising Committee should assist the Athletes in conduct of the meeting. The issue to be voted on is "Do you accept the responses of the Event Officials, or should they be referred to the Arbitration and Investigation Panel for final decision?"•

If a majority of the Athletes actually taking part in the Competition (50 percent plus one) so agree the outstanding issue(s) will be referred immediately to the Arbitration and Investigation Panel for a final decision against which there will be no appeal.

At this meeting any such issues must be recorded in writing (Technical Delegate & Athlete Representative responsibility) and the response of the Arbitration and Investigation Panel also recorded in writing and signed by the Chairman of the Arbitration and Investigation Panel and the Athlete Representative.

8 Athletes Briefing

The usual Athletes briefing on routine matters to do with last minute changes due to meteorological conditions, ground, etc must still take place on the evening before the Cross Country Test. In case of dispute on such issues, the procedure with the Arbitration and Investigation Panel is available for use.

9 Arbitration and Investigation Panel

The Arbitration and Investigation Panel will consist of three people appointed on the first day of the Event by the Organising Committee in conjunction with the Athlete Representative.

The Arbitration and Investigation Panel shall include: (a) a non-competing current or recent Athlete experienced at the level of the Event, (b) an FEI qualified Official, and an independent person experienced in the sport who is not involved in any way with the Event, e.g. an Organiser.

If such people are not available at the Event, after reasonable efforts to engage them, the Organising Committee, in consultation with the Technical Delegate and the President of the Ground Jury, must appoint an Arbitration and Investigation Panel of similarly experienced people likely to have the confidence of both the Athletes and Officials alike.

Any one of these three people can be appointed as President of the Arbitration and Investigation Panel. The President or a member of the Appeal Committee may be appointed to this Arbitration and Investigation Panel if suitably qualified.

10 Events with only 1 day of Dressage

At a Competition with only one day of Dressage it will be necessary to modify the above procedure. In these circumstances the above timetable may be compressed and/or certain steps omitted but the most important principles must be retained, i.e.:

- f) Concerns and responses recorded in writing.
- g) The opportunity for Athletes to vote if dissatisfied.
- h) Final decision by the Arbitration and Investigation Panel, provided a majority of starters so request.

The above procedure for consultation with Athletes will not apply for Championships, Team Events, Young Riders or Juniors Events (Athlete Representative replaced by Chef d'Equipe)