

FEI General Assembly

18-21 November, 2017

Montevideo Uruguay

Report of Major Decisions by Mary Seefried

Firstly, thank you to Equestrian Australia for the honour and the opportunity to represent Australia at the FEI AGM 2017. What an experience and I learnt such a lot. It helped me a great deal to meet key FEI staff at work and in a social context and also helped me to understand the directions especially of the Dressage and the Education Departments and the Officials Working group, not to mention the FEI solidarity. In addition, of course it is of great interest to meet representatives from so many countries around the world all joined by the common interest of FEI Equestrian sports.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY

All papers, agendas and presentations given during the General Assembly meeting days are now available on the FEI website www.fei.org.au

APPOINTMENTS OF INTEREST

- Kirsten Neil (AUS) – appointed to FEI Veterinary Commission
- Vicki Glynn (NZ) has been appointed to the FEI Audit and Compliance Committee .
- Denis O'Connor (USA) is the new Chair of Eventing replacing Guisepppe della Chiesa. Retired.
- Stephan Ellenbruch GER) is the new Chair of the jumping Committee replacing John Madden retired.

Other appointments to committees etc are available in the minutes.

GENERAL

Words of Ingmar de Vos at opening.

“In 10 years the number of events have more than doubled and we are now seeing a steady and annual increase of around 8% in terms of events and 4 to 5 % in terms of registered athletes. These are incredible statistics – especially in this very diverse and competitive sports market. And not only is our sport growing but the quality and the presentation is better than ever.”

The other major point that came across is that the FEI is a leader in Sports Governance in the world amongst 35 Olympic International Federations. And in 2015 was the winner of the award for Sports Governance. It continues to put in place best practice governance measures.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

The Chief Financial Officer informed the Assembly that the FEI is on a sound financial footing, and strict expense control and a conservative budgeting approach in operational revenues resulted in an exceptional surplus CHF 6.8 million for the FEI in 2016.

As the FEI is a not-for-profit organisation CHF 5.5 million of this surplus was put back into the sport, including allocation to projects such as:

- 1.7 million Euros to FEI Solidarity fund (see notes on Solidarity Fund presentation)
- 2.0 million provision for the prize money NC final 2017, prior to the announcement of Longines title partnership for the series from 2018 onwards
- 1.4 million to promote increased EADMCP controls and further develop human anti-doping.
- 400,000 to the FEI IT fund (many projects underway)

OLYMPIC QUALIFICATION PROCEDURES FOR TOKYO 2020

These were approved with the additional clarification given on the deadline to achieve Minimum Eligibility Requirements (Certificate of Capability) across all three disciplines, changing 18 May 2020 to “*five weeks before the sports entry deadline for Tokyo2020*”. The sports entry deadline will be agreed between the IOC and Tokyo2020 next year.

The annex can be found here <http://inside.fei.org/fei/about-fei/general-assembly/2017-annexes>

OFFICIALS WORKING PARTY/FEI CAMPUS JOINT PRESENTATION

- Draft job descriptions have been prepared for some disciplines, Jumping and Eventing. They are very useful because they also are checklist for the officials to check they have done their job. See slide on Draft PD for a chief Steward
- The **competency based evaluation system** pilot may be ready to launch at end of 2018. Competency based refreshers would be given during Refresher seminars: Functional, physical and language competency to be studied- propose to establish discipline specific working groups.
- Review opportunities for mentoring development.
- Will develop an FEI controlled rolling education calendar.

Principles of the process of the Proactive Calendar

- NFs communicate their needs to FEI
- NF statistics serve as planning tool (134 spreadsheets)
- FEI creates courses (mutually agrees where and when)
- FEI allocates course venues
- FEI appoints and pay Course Directors (Budget adjustments have allowed FEI to pay the course directors.,
- All disciplines to be enabled to deliver education with same quality (all course directors to sue same syllabi based on job descriptions)

- Discipline departments will produce the course materials - potential to reduce the length of course in association with FEI Campus delivery as well) .
- Initiate program in 2018.

FEI Campus now has 2160 registered users and offers the following courses

- Eventing officials course
- Driving basic course
- Driving Judges level 1
- Endurance basic Course
- Endurance Judges level 1
- Rule update 2018 for all disciplines
- Equine and Human antidoping courses
- FEO Legal System
- Biosecurity course. Notable disciplines are missing.

JUMPING

The General Assembly voted separately on **the phased implementation of the rule from 2019 that only hind boots used solely for protective purposes, as described in the FEI Jumping Stewards' Manual, may be used in FEI Competitions.** The proposal was approved.

The timeline for implementation is as follows:

- For implementation on 1 January 2019: for Pony Riders, Children, Amateur Owners and Veterans.
- For implementation as of 1 January 2020: for Juniors, Young Riders and U-25.
- For implementation on 1 January 2021: for all FEI Jumping Competitions.

The phased introduction of this rule takes into account the current Olympic qualification cycle.

The proposal for **CSI Invitation Rules (Annex V)** was also voted on separately **and approved.**

However, 32 federations were against this proposal which indicates that there is quiet a division between countries, especially strong European jumping nations were against it.

The remaining changes and modifications to the Jumping Rules were approved.

Note Blood rule has changed to “elimination” for bleeding (see approved Rules)

DRESSAGE

The General Assembly approved modifications to the Dressage Rules including the introduction of a Medium Tour Freestyle test.

- The GA voted separately on the proposed **change to collective marks** – the removal of marks for Paces, Impulsion and Submission and replaced with one single criteria for the Athlete's position and seat; correctness and effect of the aids. This was approved. Name of this mark still under discussion. Will impact all EA national tests and scoring as well so a lot of work to be done for us prior to 1.1.18 .
- **Hilo:** Following extensive debate in the two days of meetings prior to the GA, the proposal to implement a HiLo drop score for Dressage was withdrawn, and the Dressage Judges Working Group will now look at a testing plan for 2018 to **trial the HiLo drop score and other proposals** which were made by stakeholders prior to the GA , including those from the Italian and Norwegian National Federations. An independent panel will analyse the results of the testing. Watch this space.

EVENTING

The General Assembly approved modifications to the Eventing Rules. The main amendments included:

- The implementation of the new competition structure **as of 1 January 2019**. The new competition structure has adapted to the current global level of the sport, supporting the implementation of the Olympic strategy. It is also part of the continued effort to address risk management and the cost effectiveness of the discipline together with encouraging the development of the number of nations participating in Eventing.

2017 categorisation system	Categorisation proposed for 2018	Categorization proposed for 2019
Olympic & WEG Format: 4* dressage & jumping, XC: 38-42 efforts, 10min	Olympic & WEG Format: (same as for 2017)	5* Long (CCI 5* L) Dressage & Jumping – 4* XC (38-42 efforts, 10mn). Format to be used for Olympic & WEG
CCI 4* (Classics)	CCI 4*	5* Major (CCI 5* Major) same as current CCI 4star with additional requirements)
CCI 3*	CCI 3*	4* Long (CCI 4* L)
CIC 3*	CIC 3*	4* Short (CCI 4* S)
CCI 2*	CCI 2*	3* Long (CCI 3* L)
CIC 2*	CIC 2*	3* Short (CCI 3* S)
CCI 1*	CCI 1*	2* Long (CCI 2* L)
CIC 1*	CIC 1*	2* Short (CCI 2* S)
	<i>New introductory level</i>	1* (Unified) (CCI 1*) (Not compulsory for qualifications)

For implementation in 2018:

- the new **non-compulsory level at 1m05** max height for cross country, defined as “Introductory”.
- The removal of the Dressage coefficient, as of 1 January 2018, to address risk management issues through rebalancing the importance of cross country skills.

It is now possible that NFs can take over the responsibility of implementing the FEI minimum requirements for Arena Eventing. The Organising Committee can either apply to hold the competition through the FEI system or the National Federation will be responsible for the enforcement of these minimum compulsory requirements, to manage and limit risk.

DRIVING

The rules were approved with some minor clarifications and amendments.

ENDURANCE

The rules were a ‘hot potato issue’, with a lot of dissension in the meeting the day before the GA. **The Chair, FEI Eventing Committee, Brian Sheehan reiterated that all rule changes have The Welfare of the Horses as the main priority as per the Endurance strategic priorities.**

There were some voting blocs against the proposals. In the end the rules were passed (with amendments as below) to be implemented on 1.1.19 (rather than 1.1.18 as it is a WEG year). Further period for discussion and a normal rules change cycle to occur.

- The GA voted separately on a proposal to reduce the **minimum weight** for CEI 3, 4 and 5* and Championships from **75kgs to 70kgs. This was approved.** The issue of weights for other junior divisions etc as proposed was completely withdrawn.
- The GA also voted separately on raising the competition **age of horses for 5*, CEIOs and Championships**, where horses must now be at least nine years of age (previously eight years) and for Young Horse Championships and Championships under 130km, where the minimum age must now be eight years (previously seven). **This was approved.**
- The Max pulse at gates was an inadvertent mistake and taken out.

Other main amendments approved en bloc (also to be implemented as of 1 January 2019) include: Increases in mandatory rest periods, based on scientific presentations at the FEI Sports Forum last April and the FEI Endurance Forum last May. An additional rest period of 7 days will apply for horses that reach average speeds of 20 km/hr or higher at completion. This rest period will also apply to horses which do not complete the competition whose average speed of completed phases is 20 km/hr or higher.

A new star system for Endurance events, CEI 4* and CEI 5*, will be introduced to have prime events and a higher standard of competition for horses and athletes. *“The new star*

system is not solely defined by prize money, but sets specific requirements for organisers to ensure compliance with FEI rules and high standards of horse welfare”.

PARA-EQUESTRIAN DRESSAGE

The General Assembly approved modifications to the Para-Equestrian Dressage Rules. The main amendments included:

Piaffe and Passage may not be shown intentionally by Athletes at any time. Contravening this rule may result in a Yellow Warning Card.

Any Athlete who changes Grade as a result of a Classification Evaluation will be required to compete in their allocated Grade from the time that it appears on the FEI Masterlist. Where the new Grade is allocated at a Competition, the Athlete can choose to compete in their new Grade or compete in the entered Grade. Where the entered Grade is lower than the newly allocated Grade, each of the Athlete's test's final result will be reduced by ten (10) percentage points. Such a decision must be reported to the President of the Ground Jury and Foreign Technical Delegate/Foreign Judge by the Chief Classifier. The Athlete may only compete in a Championship or Paralympic Games in their newly assigned Grade, providing that they meet the qualification requirements.

In addition, the General Assembly approved modifications to the Para-Equestrian Classification Rules. The FEI Classification Manual now becomes the FEI Classification Rules to be in line with the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Code of Compliance.

VETERINARY REGULATIONS

The FEI Veterinary Department carried out a complete revision of the Veterinary Regulations during 2017 and this full revision was approved by the GA.

The principle aims of the revision were to bring a more logical structure to the Veterinary Regulations, clarifications and a clear focus on regulatory matters. A number of notable changes to the Veterinary Regulations include:

Pony measuring: The FEI reserves the right to carry out unannounced pony measuring. The FEI also reserves the right to request out of competition measurements and, where requested by the Ground Jury, this must be carried out within 72 hours of the conclusion of the event. The procedure for out of competition measuring, regulatory height and funding has been determined and is in the regulations.

Veterinary Treatment: under the newly approved rules, Horses can no longer be treated by injection with any substance prior to competition on the day they are competing. An exception will be granted for emergency treatments and classes starting at 18:00 or later. In addition to changes in the treatment of horses at events, vaccines must not be given to horses at events.

Permitted Equine Therapists & Supportive Therapies: Clarification has been provided regarding the supportive therapies that can be used during FEI events and the personnel

permitted to carry them out. Supportive therapies have been categorised into Non-Restricted and Restricted Therapies. Restricted Therapies must be carried out by trained personnel, known as Permitted Equine Therapists. Permitted Equine Therapists will be listed on the FEI database and issued with an FEI ID card. Separate guidelines will be produced and circulated to National Federations concerning the training requirements and enrolment of Permitted Equine Therapists. Stewards will be able to carry out checks to inspect the Permitted Equine Therapist's ID card and verify the therapy they are carrying out.

MEDICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The Medical Committee was mandated by Bureau to address a number of matters (in priority order) and to develop the corresponding projects. The Committee will implement measures in the areas outlined below:

- **Concussion**
- **Return to Play policy**
- **Injury reporting & surveillance**
- **Helmet rules**
- **Prize giving protocols**

COMMERCIAL AND MARKETING STRATEGY

The FEI Commercial Director gave a presentation on Marketing & outlining how the FEI is changing and the new approach to the presentation of the sport.

“When presenting the FEI, we present equestrian as one sport”, he said. “And it is true, many demographics and many attributes are valid for all equestrian disciplines. But, each discipline is also unique: unique in its characteristics, unique in its rules, unique in the participants, unique in the fan base and unique in terms of the companies interested in the discipline.” So different logos for each sport have been developed.

The FEI has increased its focus on digital and social media, developing new types of content. Page views on the FEI website, FEI.org, have almost quadrupled in 2017. Facebook video views are almost nine times greater than in 2015, and each discipline now has its own Facebook page. Instagram followers have gone up close to 800%, while YouTube views have increased by more than 30%.

FEI SOLIDARITY UPDATE- NOTE THE PROJECTS WHICH HAVE BEEN FUNDED OUT OF THIS BUDGET

221 National Federation projects were approved and financed by FEI Solidarity over the last six years, of which 73 are ongoing. At its September 2017 meeting, the FEI Solidarity Committee allocated further financial assistance, technical assistance and/or consultancy services to 63 new projects from 33 National Federations.

Globally the biggest achievement has been education of human resources, with the FEI Solidarity programme having now produced Technical Experts in a majority of the nine FEI

Regional Groups. In addition, the FEI Solidarity programme has expanded its assistance to new National Federations, including Lithuania, Latvia, Serbia, Kyrgyzstan, Iran, Algeria, Tunisia, India, Thailand, Philippines. The role of the regional Technical Experts is invaluable in bringing equestrian people together and promoting and developing the sport in each region.

- Courses for Farriers and Grooms have been organised recently or are in process of being organised across the world including in Haiti, Madagascar and Sri Lanka.
- Sport for All projects linked to disadvantaged youth, which promote social integration for underprivileged youth through sport, and development and promotion of the sport are taking place in Cambodia, Haiti, Puerto Rico, Singapore, Slovenia, Uruguay, Zambia and Tunisia.
- Equestrian Sport Educative Events (ESEEs) have, to date, seen 40 Technical Experts from five continents delivering these events in their respective language. In total 257 national Officials from 34 National Federations have received education through ESEEs in all FEI disciplines. The aim is to build the foundations of a discipline in a country through the education of national Officials (Judges/Course Designers), Coaches and Organisers to the benefit of the Athletes.
- The GA was also updated on the achievements and progression of ongoing training for National Head Veterinarians, Coach Education and the **FEI World Jumping and Dressage Challenge**.
- **FEI Campus:** The e-learning platform FEI Campus was fully launched in **June 2017**. The IT and Education & Standards Departments managed the project providing an efficient education platform for FEI Officials as well as the larger equestrian community. (See separate report)
- **FEI Entry System:** The FEI Online Entry System has been operational for five years for Jumping and is now also used in Endurance, Dressage, Eventing and Driving. A new version of the FEI online Entry System with improved interfaces and workflows is now being developed on the basis of the experience and feedback gathered. This new version of the FEI Entry System will be released together with the **FEI Online Invitation System for Jumping in 2018**. (see **Jumping report**)
- **Dressage Freestyle Scoring:** The new Dressage Freestyle Scoring system was successfully implemented for the entire FEI World Cup™ Dressage Western European League 2016/17 series and Final, and is being used again for the 2017/18 season of the FEI World Cup™ Dressage Western European League.
- **Risk Management in Eventing:** In order to continuously improve the risk monitoring in Eventing, an important functionality has been added to the Risk Management software to track the details of all obstacles on each FEI cross country course. This will allow for the collection of additional data to be used for analytical and statistical purposes. The IT and Eventing Departments conducted a first pilot year with the Irish company EquiRatings, to study the future implementation and use of the EquiRatings Quality Index (ERQI) for FEI competitions

TOKYO 2020 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES UPDATE

Tokyo2020 Equestrian Sport Manager Haruta Yasuhiko gave a progress report to the General Assembly, talking delegates through the two venues at Baji Koen and Sea Forest. He talked through the history of Baji Koen, which was used for the Tokyo 1964 Olympic Games, its location, construction timelines as well as an overview of quarantine (bubble to bubble) and stabling plans. The project is on schedule with a very high standard of equestrian facilities planned with support from the Japan Racing Association. Demolition of the old facilities at the main site at Baji Koen has now been completed and construction work will commence next year.

Note: The Olympic Test Event is provisionally scheduled for August 10-12 2019, with Dressage and Jumping at Baji Koen and cross country at Sea Forest.

INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT OF HORSES -IHSC/OIE WORKSHOPS

An update on the IHSC OIE Regional Workshops and Research project. This ongoing project sees the FEI working together with the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA), the FEI's partner in the International Sports Horse Confederation (IHSC), and the Office International des Epizooties (OIE), conducting research and working to enable the continuous growth of and improvement to the international movement of horses.

Regional workshops are being rolled out. A methodology has been created to enable self-improvement for NFs, Veterinary and Customs Authorities and, with the support of the IHSC and OIE, it is the aim for all countries, veterinary services, customs and NFs to work together to improve procedures, both within their region and with the goal that international movement will be facilitated with a strong infrastructure in place so that other countries trust and welcome movement.

Mary Seefried