



Equestrian Australia Endurance Committee - UPDATE

Meeting held Tuesday 2 March 2021
Below is a summary of proceedings at the recent EAEC meeting

MEETING SUMMARY

Opening and Welcome:

Chair welcomed all the attendees and thanked them for their valuable time

Election of the EA Endurance Committee Chair

Chris Bailey thanked everyone for their support since he became Chair. He indicated that the year has been a difficult one not only with COVID but also with EA Voluntary Administration placing many demands on his time. He stepped down as Chair of the EA Endurance Committee and indicated he would be very happy to assist the new Chair in moving into the role. He said he would stay on the Committee until EOIs were called for new Committee Members and at that time would also step down from the Committee to allow him to focus his volunteer time and energy on getting his FEI ride up and going this year and helping others as well.

Chris then called for nominations for the position of Chair.

- Jane Radny was nominated but declined due to work commitments.
- Naomi O'Shaunessey indicated that she was not able to take any additional commitments until later in the year.
- Darian Feany also indicated that work commitments (and her work with the EA Team Camp sub-committee).

- Robyn Parnell has completed 6 years on the Committee and will step down when the EOI appointments are finalised.
- Sonya Ryan was nominated by Jane Radny and seconded by Darien Feany and accepted the nomination.
- Sonya stepped aside and a vote was called by Chris Bailey. The vote was carried unanimously.

All the Committee members spoke and thanked CB for his dedication and time in supporting the Committee through VA and COVID and all the additional tasks and time that was involved. They commended CB for being a fantastic ambassador for the sport and for the work he has put in as a volunteer.

Trans-Tasman

The committee discussed their concerns that due to COVID, practically the event may not be able to run. The committee also identified there is limited FEI qualified horses, and a short amount of time to host events to get horses qualified for the Trans-Tasman. The committee will work with ESNZ to see if the Trans-Tasman would be possible with the current COVID travel restrictions.

Team Camp

Plans continue for the Team Camp to run at the Bullio event this year. The Committee agreed that this Camp was a great initiative and had its full support. Obviously, any border closures would again impact the Camp but at this stage, the team is hopeful. There appears to be lots of interest in the camp and the sub-committee wants to ensure that there is a lot of marketing / advertising / social media promoting the camp in the lead up months. It was suggested that the sub-committee consider a 1 ½ day camp (full day Thursday and ½ day on Friday) before the vetting for the event on Friday afternoon.

Senior World Championships 2021

FEI Endurance World Champs (Snr) are scheduled for 21-22 May 2021 in San Rossore (ITA) - Info at: <https://inside.fei.org/fei/disc/endurance/main-events/world-seniors-2021>

The EOI for Riders and a Chef are posted on the EA Website and on EA Social Media platforms.

The Selectors are happy with the FEI criteria and will not be making any additions. Criteria: <https://inside.fei.org/fei/disc/endurance/main-events/world-seniors-2021>.

HP have requested that the EAEC share the EOI on all their platforms and let AERA (National and States) know as well. The Committee know of 2 riders who are overseas currently and may be interested. They thought that there may be reluctance from Australian based riders because of COVID and the logistics. The Committee asked whether the Chef d'Equipe needed

to be an Australian as there were several people overseas who may be interested but are not Australian (partners/spouses), High Performance will confirm this before the next meeting.

AERA Inclusion into EA Medication Control courses

Jenny Merity let the meeting know that Cate Plummer, Medication Control Officer had resigned and that the position is being recruited. Cate will continue to look after FEI events and will also deliver a refresher course for Testing Technicians probably around April or May.

As soon as the new Medication Control Officer is onboard, the running of courses for new Testing Technicians will be on the list to be addressed. The Committee suggested that if possible, with the use of new technology like Microsoft Teams meetings, that the initial training could be done electronically with the follow up practical experience then gained in each state before the final assessment. This would hopefully allow a faster and more cost-efficient delivery of the course content.

Jane Radny, who is the delegate to AERA from WA for this year, said that they had expressions of interest from 6 potential candidates in 2 states wishing to undertake Testing Technician training and believe that there is interest from other States once courses would be announced.

EA will write to AERA to acknowledge the interest from AERA and the plans for future testing technician training once the new Medication Control Officer is in place.

EA Endurance Athlete Pathways

The document on Australian Endurance Horse Riding Pathways was discussed.

The Committee would like to engage with HP to find out if there was some support available through EA / AIS to provide training in a variety of areas including nutrition and fitness.

Jenny Merity shared the HP Squad criteria which was in place for Eventing which included:

- o Gold (AIS Athlete Category - Podium)
- o Green (AIS Athlete Category – Podium Ready and Podium Potential)
- o Generation Next (AIS Athlete Category – Developing and Emerging)

And suggested that tiering the Athlete pathways towards these categories would allow consistency across the disciplines.

Jenny Merity suggested that involving AERA and the AERA State branches in identifying and nominating athletes for inclusion in the Elite level would encourage the development of pathways and support Endurance at the FEI level and encourage ownership from the State level up to FEI level.

Sonya Ryan will review the Athlete Pathways document for further discussion with the Committee. It was also recommended that the Committee review the ESNZ Athlete Pathways document <https://www.nzequestrian.org.nz/disciplines/endurance-ctr/>

The committee will hear from Chris Webb (High Performance Director) at the next meeting, to discuss the pathway towards WEG and what support may be available through HP and AIS as well as helping develop the Talent pool through athlete identification.

Other Education Opportunities

Additional work needs to be done in this area and some of the potential Zoom content will be probably developed as part of the Team Camp.

Darien Feary said that currently, NSW is developing TPR Training which is being recorded and she will be involved in the Veterinary part of the presentation. When this becomes available, she will let all Committee members know of the details.

COVID FEI Foreign Officials

The Committee asked whether the exemption due to COVID for FEI Rides requiring Foreign FEI Officials was being extended in 2021 or whether it would be considered on a case-by-case basis. EA will reach out to the FEI for clarification.

Next Meeting

19th of May 2021