



Equestrian Australia LTD EA Jumping Committee Meeting - UPDATE

Meeting held - Wednesday 23rd June 2021

Below is a summary of proceedings at the recent EAJC Committee meeting:

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Opened at 7.03pm

Graeme Watts (GW) (Chair) Opened the meeting and welcomed all the State Jumping Chairs to the meeting and thanked all for their time to attend.

➤ **Horse and Rider abuse / Change to Article 259.4 in the EA National Jumping Rules**

Discussion:

The group discussed that there is a growing miss use of the practice fences and the bad behaviour has developed into on course issues with riders forcing horses to have rails or deliberate missing etc. The issue is two-fold with the lack of quality and confidence of stewards, and with judges not sanctioning the behaviour. The group discussed that the potential solution of filming the incidents is not always going to be practical because an act may occur before a steward (or another person) can video it. The group discussed that rather than putting funding into video systems that record the warm up arena's to deter bad behaviour, the investment should go into developing the education and training programs for the existing stewards and new stewards, as having more stewards equipped with the right skills available at shows would see the behaviour disseminated. The states all agreed it had been several years since a training and education program had been run for stewards.

The group identified that having stewards at a show comes at a significant cost to the OC, and discussed that the average cost should be established before changing the minimum threshold of prizemoney where stewards are required, as this could put an undue strain of costs on the OC.

The group discussed that riders can and should also call out other riders for the bad behaviour, as this is another simple way to discourage it from occurring again.

The SDC's all agreed a national directive for the issue would be a good solution, as long is it was suitable for the larger and smaller states.

➤ **Clarification on the need for all horses competing in EA affiliated events to be registered with their state branch**

Discussion:

The group discussed that some of the States were experiencing issues of young horses under the ages of 4/5yo being competed in classes below 1.05, and as there is no requirement for these horses to be registered, but it is in the rules that “Horses entered in Jumping Events in Australia must be aged at least 4 years” (EA Jumping Rules, Article 254 Age of Horses), there is now a problem that is hard to monitor with no registrations under 1.05m being mandatory. Age classes require a full horse registration, but open classes below 105 do not.

The group discussed that mandating a full horse registration for the lower classes may potentially drive competitors away from the sport and to other providers such as Pony Club. Whilst the group could see the benefit for having all horses registered as early as possible, it wasn't suitable for a full horse registration to be required, and that a potential solution was at a minimum a State base registration, of a low fee. Where potentially the horse receives a competition licence and horse identification number, and then when it needs a full registration above 105, only the difference needs to be paid.

The group identified this is a State level issue and needs to go to the State CEOs and State Chairs meetings.

➤ **State Calendars/ Jumping Victoria Event Tiering System**

Discussions:

The group discussed that there was a need for there to be a National Jumping Calendar, to allow competitors to plan their year ahead. The EAJC expressed that they would like all calendars submitted to them by the States by the end of September so that the EAJC could potentially mitigate against any date clashes of major shows. The EAJC stated this was not currently mandatory, but they would like to make it as such so that potential clashes can be avoided for the better of the sport and participation levels. Jumping Victoria spoke to the current Event Tiering System that they are using, and an app called TEAMUP that allows the clubs to book dates in the app, and see if there's any clashes or alternative dates available, this has been a large success with the Victoria Jumping Clubs. Jumping Victoria's tiering system also stops major events having a clash and allows clubs to run these events and gain sponsorship knowing they have a level of exclusivity around the date of the event. The group were highly interested in this method and would like to look at utilising it further.

Meeting Closed at 8.55pm with a special thanks to the State Jumping Committee Chairs being extended, for their time, input, and dedication to improving Australian Jumping.

Next meeting date with the State Jumping Chairs will be Wednesday 15th September