



Equestrian Australia LTD

EA Jumping Committee Meeting - UPDATE

Meeting held - Wednesday 12th May 2021

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

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Opened at 7.10pm

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

Officials Refresher

- Coco Miles (CM) noted that currently Dressage NSW have a successful program up and running, so perhaps reaching out to them to see if we can adapt a similar method would be more efficient than reinventing the wheel. The EAJC will work with Amy McGregor (AM) the EA Pathways Officer – Officials to continue working on this.

Online Entries

- Discussion was had about the complications with entries for riders entering lots of horses and riders not being able to get entries by the time they have completed their entries, and servers crashing with everyone trying to get on and enter at once.
- The idea of staggering entries was proposed, but riders with several entries to do were concerned that it would become a very lengthy process when entering multiple classes at different stagger times.
- The EAJC also noted that there was an issue with Phantom bookers taking spots in classes, but then trying to swap their entries on the day into classes they missed out on.
- John Vallance (JV) suggested using the providers to block people who are ineligible to enter classes (i.e. seniors entering junior classes to phantom book), as well as having high \$ amount nomination fees that a non-refundable to change classes or to enter well in advance similar to how it works in the US.
- All agreed that there must be a better way, and further discussions will lead to finding the solution.
- Jenny Merity (JM) the EA lead on Nominate - will meet with the provider to see what can be done from their end and get some feedback from them to take to the next EAJC meeting.

Trial of New Warm Up Process

- JV noted that riders are happy with it but riders have short comings with it as if they are there by themselves they can't make alterations, you need a minimum of three fences that at riders discretion can be made in x-rail, vertical, and oxer, but it needs a big warm up arena size. For major events it should be encouraged if there is sufficient warmups and sufficient sizing.

Serious Incident Report Reviews

- Recently the standing item 'Serious Incident Report Review' has been added to the EAJC agenda (as well as other disciplines agendas), Andrew Hamilton (AH) EA Acting CEO joined to discuss with the EAJC what EA is trying to achieve by reviewing the serious incident reports. AH explained what EA is looking to achieve by bringing this standing item to all disciplines agendas, that EA has identified after reviewing the 31 CR's that there is a need to examine serious incidents to see what (if any) additional steps can be taken to minimise potential harms in equestrian sports. The implementation of the CR's across all equestrian sports is a high priority for the EA Board, the EA Audit and Risk committee and should be a priority for the NDC's as well. The incident reports are shared with the Board, the A&R committee, and the NDC, to open a discussion around what (if any) changes can be made to improve the safety areas of our rules, regulations, and policies, and ultimately equestrian sports. The priority is to ensure our OC's and members are supported by EA and given adequate resources to complete incident report debriefs, and to support the injured parties through their recoveries.
- The Board and A&R committee are prioritising safety and risk management taking a greater focus on making the sport safer and mitigating against future litigation possibilities.
- Meredith Chapman (MC) the EA National Safety Manager then discussed that it is about completing a debrief after incidents to make sure the process of first responders is adequate and seeing if we could have done anything better, as well as establishing safety and danger trends within the disciplines. MC explained that the 31 CRs don't just apply to eventing but the incident debriefs and reviews, would allow us to see what CRs can be applied across all the disciplines, for the benefit of our sport. The purpose of the incident reviews and debriefs was to open up communication channels that have previously been closed, to allow for a conversation to take place that can lead to beneficial outcomes for the progression of equestrian sport safety.
- All parties agreed that there is a vast awareness of the inherent risks in equestrian sports, and that riders do participate in the sport at their own risk willingly. MC explained that the process was not to make the sport more difficult for OC's to operate, but to demonstrate and justify that we do have a dangerous sport, however by applying the safety and risk mitigation processes, sport operators are doing everything they can possibly do to mitigate against potential harm to horses, athletes, and the sport.
- The EAJC raised concerns that whilst there was appreciation of the need for communication, there should be care taken by EA to ensure the clubs and OC's do not feel attacked or as though they are under 'investigation', with a top concern being there should be an understanding that adding any undue strain to the OC's will make it harder for them to provide the sport.
- GW explained to AH and MC that there were some fear factors coming from the OC's, and JV agreed that for the OC's new processes and changes can be difficult, but for the sport to adapt and overcome challenges these difficult conversations must be had. As previously riders were able to remount and continue to compete in competition after a fall, and we now know through review processes that this is an inappropriate and potentially dangerous action, this review has now lead a change in all equestrian sports not allowing riders to remount and requiring medical clearance before continuing on other rides etc.
- AH concluded that EA wants its members and sport operators to feel more supported and encouraged that it is about learning through review of information reported.

- The EAJC would like to have AH and MC discuss this matter with the Judges Group so that the right information is getting to the people who are part of the process, and a good time to do this is during the renewal process.

Concussion Protocols

- MC explained that concussion of hold has been rolled out nationally, and is open for all EA sports operators to use, the concussion training sessions cater for all users.

Appointment of EAJC Athletes Riders Representative

- The EAJC discussed that the current process is not suitable, as not enough people come forward to be considered, nor do enough people come forward to vote, and under the general regulation, it is open to any EA member to vote, not just jumping members. The EAJC and AH established that a new process for electing a Athletes Representative for the EAJC needs to be created, and the current policy amended, perhaps by first identifying what skills the EAJC requires from a Athletes rep, creating a criteria for the nominations EOI.
- The EAJC also agreed that under the policy there was no need to go through the recruitment process at this stage, unless the current position holder were to step down, or their term expire. So, the best course of action was to remove the current Application EOI down from the website, create a better process that works for Jumping, then amend the policy and begin the process for filling the position.
- GW suggested using the state riders' reps to decide on who the national delegate would be.

Implementation of Helmet Tagging for Jumping

- The EAJC all agreed that Helmet Tagging was imperative to introduce across all classes, competitions, and athletes, nationally.
- The EAJC moved that Helmet Tagging be compulsory for all EA Affiliated Jumping events effective 1 January 2022 with a phase in period commencing as soon as practicable in 2021.
- The rule update will be as follows:

Article 256 – Dress, Protective Headgear and Salute

Addition to 1.4 All Athletes must wear properly fastened Protective Headgear whenever mounted at an EA or FEI event in Australia. "Protective Headgear" is a helmet that: i. meets one of the current approved safety standards set out in Article 122 Equestrian Australia General Regulations; and ii. is tagged with a current visible EA 'helmet tag' (Effective January 1st 2022) Failure to wear such Protective Headgear where and when required after being notified to do so by an Official, shall result in a Recorded Warning or Yellow Warning card being issued to the athlete unless exceptional circumstances apply.

FEI Requirements for Officials to gain/maintain status

- The EAJC discussed that the criteria that's listed by the FEI for jumping officials to maintain the accreditation is almost beyond all capabilities in Australia, and that consequently officials will be downgraded because they are not able to fulfill the requirements set out by the FEI. The EAJC noted that discussions with the FEI were had 4/5 years ago and the EAJC should contact some of the other National federations

such as NZ and South East Asian countries that will be in a similar situation, as under the FEI requirements there won't be officials in these countries to conduct World Cup Competitions.

- GW suggests contacting the representative for group 8 in Taiwan, with supporting documentation from the other identified countries. That way he as our delegate can put the case forward for all the countries to the FEI.
- The EAJC will work with Amy McGregor to resolve this issue.

Update World Cup rules

- The committee reviewed the Jumping World Cup Rules, and addressed any issues arising in them, and amended the rules to fall into line with the FEI rules. The FEI have acknowledged the amendments and will hopefully have them in place for 2022.

Clarification on Children's Classes at EA affiliated events

- The EAJC discussed the issue and concluded that there was no need to make any amendments to the general regulations, and that they are to be implemented as it stands.
 - Competitors competing in official classes, at or over 1.05m height, must be registered with their appropriate state and hold a valid competition licence, including juniors. If unregistered, competitors are only permitted to start at under 105cms.

Meeting Closed at 9.40pm with a special thanks to John Vallance and Annie White being extended, for their time, input, and dedication to improving Australian Jumping.

Next meeting date is TBC.