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## Equestrian Australia Ltd EA Vaulting Committee Meeting Summary

Meeting held: 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Below is a summary of proceedings at the recent EAVC meeting

### MEETING DISCUSSION

#### Chris Webb - High Performance Update

Chris discussed with the EAVC that due to Tokyo being delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic, equestrian sport was now in the situation of having a shorter Olympic Cycle. i.e. Three consecutive years of Championships until the 2024 Olympics, and this had presented the HP team with numerous difficulties. CW also explained that Di Saunders (DS) has now stepped in to oversee all things high performance with the non-Olympic disciplines. CW highlighted that there are three main projects the HP team are currently working on:

1. Review and Auditing selectors
2. Review and Auditing WEG Policies
3. Chef d'Equipe appointments

CW outline that Denmark will be holding the WEG 2022 and the planning for this event is going well, the OC seem to be very proactive, and have vaulting set to share the floor with dressage.

The HP team respect that there is many challenges and risks associated with our HP athletes, horses, and support personnel travelling overseas to participate in the international competitions such as the Olympics and WEG, and that COVID is currently the main concern. In response to this the HP team operate on a day to day preparation plan, knowing that things can change very quickly.

The 2022 travel restrictions the Australian Government have in place domestically and internationally prove difficult to enable an international HP environment. Due to travel of horses and athletes being extremely expensive, the outbreak of Equine HERPES Virus in Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East, and COVID, the reality for the HP team is that horse and athlete welfare must be the priority in the current climate.

The FEI currently have risk management strategies in place for the Equine HERPES Virus, and for COVID, but both situations are extremely fragile.

Unfortunately, this means that the World Junior Vaulting Championships are unlikely to take place as scheduled on the 28<sup>th</sup> July – 12<sup>th</sup> of August in France, Australia can't send athletes. The HP team cannot support athletes going overseas at this time due to majority of the funding being drawn from Government funding, the government travel restrictions and recommendations must be adhered to.

However, exemptions from athletes wishing to go overseas will be assessed and acknowledged but are unlikely to be supported.

The Australian Vaulting community is still very keen on attending the next World Junior Championships post COVID and will express this to the FEI. CW will take the lead on this communication to the relevant parties, that Australia isn't able to send athletes or horses at this time but will be at the ready for the next one. CW will be in touch with participants to explain in detail the situation that it is not realistic with COVID as our reality.

Regarding International Judges being required at FEI competitions in Australia, CW explained that if an OC requires a derogation from the rules, it is difficult and at this stage the FEI is recommending running unofficial competitions, or National ones.

The EAVC understands that WEG qualifications need to be achieved, and will be posting EOI to the states for potential WEG competitors to express their interest to the EAVC, so the EAVC can develop a plan with HP.

### **Coaching**

The EAVC discussed the issues presented in the current Vaulting Coaches pathways, it was agreed that communications would be sent to the states and posted on EA news and social platforms, reminding all the existing pathways. EOI will also be called for states that would be interested in holding intensive assessment weekends to help boost Vaulting Coaches into the industry.

### **Judges Eye Clinic**

The EAVC would like to see the progression of using an online platform, to engage Judges to present to Vaulters in a format including videos etc what a Judge is looking for in comp. Darryn will be in contact with the Judges to see if appetite exists and discuss the matter at the next state chairs meeting.

### **EAVC Succession Planning**

The EAVC discussed and agreed that it would be great to see more committee member positions being held by Vaulters still actively involved in the sport, as this would ensure the EAVC would stay on top of all relevant issues, and create doorways for Vaulting succession in the future. EOI for the NDC's is currently live on the EA website, and will be circulated to the NDC's and the state contacts remind them of the closing dates.

### **Pony Club Communication**

The EAVC discussed that Pony Clubs across the nation are actively trying to include Vaulting in their operations, and the NDC would continue to look for ways to support the growth of and interest in Vaulting from Pony Club level.

### **OC's to provide EAVC competition details**

DF encouraged all EAVC members to relay to their states and clubs, to send through their competition schedules to be posted on the EA website and circulated, to create exposure of what is happening in the Vaulting competition world and that everything is up and running again post COVID.

### **Next meeting**

Scheduled for the 9<sup>th</sup> of August 2021.