

Catrin Norinder
Director, Eventing and Olympic

Federation Equestre Internationale
HM King Hussein I Building
Chemin de la Joliette 8
1006 Lausanne
SWITZERLAND

28th February 2016

Dear Catrin,

Australia congratulates the FEI in its efforts to consult widely with National Federations to establish the proposal to be submitted to the IOC in regard to the future of Equestrian in the Olympic Games.

Australia was one of 16 nations to have representatives in attendance at a meeting convened by British Eventing on 23 February in London to discuss the FEI's Olympic Agenda 2020 proposals for Eventing.

EA wishes to reaffirm its position on the proposals which have been put forward by the FEI in relation to Eventing.

Proposal A

Three horse/rider combinations per team – plus a reserve

This proposal is not supported by Australia. Along with the significant majority of nations who compete in Eventing, it is our view that the long term future of the sport in the Olympics will depend on a high proportion of teams completing the competition. Whilst we recognise that teams of 3 would appear to allow more Nations to qualify, it would be disastrous for the public's perception of the sport if few teams complete the competition.

Australia wishes there to be a team of 4 and a reserve rider.

Proposal B

No Drop Score; all three team members would count towards the final team score

This proposal is not supported by Australia. There must be four team members with the best three results to count. This leads to exciting viewing, is not hard to understand and will contribute to more teams completing the competition.

Proposal C

5 Minute Dressage test, all tests conducted on one day

This is supported by Australia; a maximum of 65 riders competing would mean that Eventing dressage would run for 6 hours.

Proposal D

The Cross Country Test to be organized in 1 day in the traditional starting order.

Equestrian Australia supports the cross country test to be organized in one day.

Proposal E

The Jumping Tests (Individual) and (the team) to be organized in one day.

Equestrian Australia support Jumping Tests in one day. The team competition is most important and therefore should take place first.

Equestrian Australia supports the teams jumping in reverse order of merit for the top placed teams. Lower placed individuals (26th and below) can also jump within this part of the competition.

The individual final will then be made up of the top 25 placed individuals. If in the case of four individuals from one nation in the individual final, the Chef d'Equipe will then decide which three individuals will compete (as per IOC regulations).

We do not support all nations riders in the arena together however do support team riders jumping consecutively according to individual rankings.

We do not support reducing the team to three riders if all four riders complete the final horse inspection as per the GB proposal. The number of nations still with 4 riders at this stage of the competition is very low so would only save minimal time. It would also disadvantage a rider who is the lowest placed in their team as it is likely that they would be dropped at this stage. If they jumped clear in the team jumping but another of their team mates had many faults, this would prevent them from competing in the individual final.

Australia notes that although having teams enter the arena together appears to be a crowd pleaser it presents difficult problems for horses warming up in preparation for their rounds.

In addition

- Australia supports the FEI in its plan to hire a brand agency to advise on the options. We are of the opinion this is highly valuable to investigate further opportunities for the wider community to be become engaged in the sport, however this needs to be a cost effective exercise.
- Australia would further support additional research and investigation around the presentation of the sport both visually and via broadcast. This may include adjusting commentary, analysis, review and preview from experienced profile broadcasters and technical experts.
- Australia supports the inclusion of composite teams in the sport of Eventing at Olympic Games. This is a proven way of encouraging both individuals and Nations (Flags) to participate.
- In regards to other formats being considered for World Equestrian Games we are of the opinion a similar format as suggested above for the Olympic Games would be a satisfactory outcome for Equestrian Australia. We believe however that only one round of showjumping is appropriate for World Equestrian Games.

Australia thanks all those who have been involved in this very extensive consultative process.

On behalf of Equestrian Australia

Very best regards,



Judy Fasher
Chair, Equestrian Australia