

HYBRID GENERAL ASSEMBLY ANNEX Pt 15.3



17 November 2021, Antwerp (BEL)

PARIS 2024 PARALYMPIC GAMES EQUESTRIAN QUALIFICATION SYSTEM EVENTING TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Updated 11 November 2021

Dear National Federations,

The Eventing Committee has reviewed the comments received from National Federations (NFs) and Stakeholders (SHs) by 15 October 2021.

In the present Report you can find:

- [A. Executive Summary with the main conclusions of the points discussed](#); and
- [B. Appendix I where all NFs and SHs comments received are addressed](#).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Catrin Norinder', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Catrin Norinder
FEI Eventing & Olympics Director

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A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Eventing Committee met on 2 November 2021 to discuss the comments received from NFs and SHs on the proposed Qualification system for Paris 2024.

Comments specifically on the 2024 Qualification procedure distribution of quota places were received on the proposal from: CZE, ESP, URU, USA & PAEC. Both the ESP & URU NF proposals would need further discussion directly with the NFs.

Support for the Qualification System proposed was provided by ITA, NED, NOR, SWE & SUI NFs.

Tokyo Olympic Format – Eventing:

The Committee agreed that the Eventing competition format had been successful in Tokyo 2020 from a sport point of view allowing an enhanced presentation. The classification fully reflected the sport with the best teams in the sport today on the podium. The competition itself had provided the correct level and standard. The length of the break between the Team and the Individual Jumping test would need consideration before Paris 2024.

Paris 2024 Olympic Qualification system-Eventing:

The Committee acknowledged that the principle of 3 members per team was a non-negotiable requirement. However, it was raised by the Athlete representative that the role of the reserve combination was tough if not competing.

The Eventing Committee acknowledged the position of the AUT, CZE, FRA, GER, IRL, NED, SUI, USA supporting 4 members per team with a drop-score (previous Olympic format-Rio 2016).

Paris 2024 Olympic Qualification events & MERs:

It was agreed that the level of the MER must be raised to ensure that all nations both in the Team and Individual competition were able to provide performance certificates at the Olympic level. The standard of Cross Country competition at Qualification and MER events would need specific assessment to ensure that they were of the required levels of difficulty. The Committee also agreed that MER results needed to be recent and achieved in different events and different countries if possible.

ITA NF raised the fact that all qualification competition should be of the same level and technical difficulty in all geographic groups to ensure a fair and level playing field for all.

Eventing Nations Cup Qualifying event:

The feedback received from USA NF & PAEC commented that the Eventing Nations Cup benefitted only nations based in Western Europe and GBR.

The arguments presented by PAEC and the USA NF were well received, and the Committee clarified that their proposal took into account the level of the sport worldwide. The lack of 4star level events at this time in the other regions than Europe and North America made it difficult to ensure other qualification possibilities. The inclusion of the Nations Cup in the qualification system would provide encouragement for regions to develop this level of competition.

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The Committee strongly supported the allocation of an additional team in the Eventing quota system to ensure a higher level qualified nations to take part.

Welfare of the Horse: The GER NF raised the issue of the welfare of the horse related to number of flags in Eventing. The Committee commented that the welfare of the horse concerns were essential in all developments in Eventing, and the discipline has very strong rules also as linked to the risk management policies.

Horses were monitored through the Horse Inspections and veterinary examinations during the full competition, the education of Officials education included specific welfare and Risk management as part of the evaluations for Course Designer and Judges, all statistics related to the Cross country were collected and monitored throughout the year by a Risk management Group composed of experts. This group also reviews all new technology and trends in the sport to strive for continual improvements.

The late replacements and substitutions possibilities in place at the Olympic Games allowed nations to ensure participation in case of a Veterinary issue.

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B. APPENDIX I. COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM NFs AND SHs by 15 OCTOBER 2021

EVENTING		
NF/SH	COMMENTS RECEIVED BY 15 OCTOBER 2021	FEEDBACK FROM TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
AUT	Support 4 per Team for all disciplines	See Eventing Technical Committee considerations in Executive summary above.
CZE	Eventing: teams of 4, while maintaining advance of 2 teams from the special qualifying competition of our qualifying group C, as per proposal	No comment from the Eventing Technical Committee.
ESP	<p>Eventing: Propose to shift the Individual Qualification opportunities from the rankings to the next nations having qualified from the team competitions to raise the level of competition of riders attending the Olympics as Individuals. It is proposed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of teams as much as possible, reducing the individual places (6 or 3) • Increase the Olympic places to the higher level competitions (WEG and CH EU) 2 more places per event • In the event that the NOCs that obtain their quota in competitions that do not give MER, cannot send team, the places must be repositioned in the WEG classification as it is the highest level competition open to all Groups. In this way we will encourage attendance at this important competition. 	<p>The proposal would necessitate a consultation process with all NF involved in Eventing as the individual places will be reduced.</p> <p>The IOC principle of universality will also need to be considered.</p> <p>The 2024 Paris proposal includes the addition of a team.</p>
FRA	<p>Supporting teams of 4 combinations and format with 3 best results counting out of 4.</p> <p>This statement is strengthened after Tokyo2020 Games format experience where we are forced to recognize that there have been more drifts with horse welfare issues than in previous ones: riders overstraining their horses, combinations level below safety standards.</p> <p>By underestimated the singular animal factor within our sport format we are threatening the place of our sport in the Olympic movement and in society.</p> <p>We support to have more flags as long as it is not compromising horse welfare and that all participants qualify on fair worldwide procedures to ensure safety and</p>	See Eventing Technical Committee considerations in Executive summary above.

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	<p>to have the best of our sport at the Olympics.</p> <p>To increase the number of flags we would recommend to prioritize on the best individuals from upcoming nations instead of having teams not fully composed by safe enough combinations.</p>	
GER	<p>Eventing: return to the format of 4 riders in a team with the lowest score at the end dropped.</p> <p>It is kinder to the horses because it puts less pressure on a rider if the combination makes a mistake or the rider feels he should not continue a bad round. In a team of 3, riders are at risk to overstrain their horses if they know they must complete the round because otherwise their country will be basically out. There is a huge risk that teams get eliminated and then all efforts spent over years to prepare for this most important event were in vain. We recognize the fact that there is a 100/200 points score for athletes dropping out and the team stays in the rankings. Still such a team is basically out. In a four-to-a-team format, nations could still continue in the competition if a combination was retired or eliminated.</p> <p>We must not compromise Horse Welfare for the sake of having more flags. Therefore, we have to amend</p> <p>Qualification Pathway/ Team Quota Places</p> <p>In order to maintain the total quota of 48 Team Athletes for Eventing, we propose to amend to have 12 teams of 4. We are aware that the tables must then be changed accordingly and suggest that the responsible bodies make proposals to best achieve a fair allocation</p>	<p>See Eventing Technical Committee considerations in Executive summary above addressing the Welfare issue.</p> <p>The proposal would necessitate a consultation process with all NF involved in Eventing as the allocation of number of nations will be reduced.</p> <p>The IOC principle of universality will also need to be considered.</p>
IRL	<p>Eventing: We support the inclusion of the Nations Cup in 2022 as another opportunity to qualify and to increase the number of teams to 16.</p> <p>The IRL NF respectfully request the FEI and IOC to consider the level of athletes in the Individual competition. The allocation of individual places is only for countries which have not qualified a team. This generally means the standard of individual athletes is very low, and they have little or no chance of competing for a medal. The Olympics is meant to be the pinnacle of our sport for athletes and showcase the best combinations competing in a safe and highly skilled way</p>	<p>The proposal would necessitate a consultation process with all NF involved in Eventing as the allocation of number of nations will be reduced.</p> <p>The IOC principle of universality will also need to be considered.</p>

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	<p>which is unique to Eventing. It also, has to be taken into consideration the standard of riding and the safety of these athletes competing at the Olympics with minimum experience at CCI4*L and no experience at CCIS*L. The IRL NF very much support a Team of 4 with a drop score, however if this is not possible, a solution could be to have the P-athlete compete as an individual but also still be the substitute if necessary. With 16 teams, it would give you 16 Individuals, the quality/standard of the individual field would be much higher and should contain serious contenders for an individual medal. You are then avoiding asking Owners, Athletes and Horses to travel to the Olympics without competing.</p>	
ITA	<p>Eventing: In general, in favour of the proposals. To be reiterated that the qualification competitions be of the same level and technical difficulty for all combinations, throughout all qualification systems and geographic Olympic groups to ensure a fair and level playing field for all.</p>	The Eventing Technical Committee acknowledges the comments in regard to equal level of qualification competitions.
NED	Agree with principles – Supports team of 4	
NOR	Fully supports the proposal	
SWE	Agree with principles	
SUI	Supports the Quota distribution as proposed – Supports team of 4	
URU	<p>Eventing: Team Qualification Allocation of quotas is prioritized by the participation in World Championships over the Regional competitions. This harms the peripheral regions that normally do not have access to this kind of events and hinders the global representation in the games that, according to our point of view, should be based of the regional results. Therefore, it is hereby proposed to reduce the quotas achieved as a consequence of the results linked to World Championships and increase the quotas by region according to the Regional Games results, that is, to add one or two more quotas in the Pan American Games.</p> <p>Individual Qualification : the allocation of quotas at regional level is subject to the ranking and not to the effective participation in the Pan American Games. In many cases, the combinations obtain their ranking as a consequence of their participation outside their respective groups, thus</p>	The proposal would necessitate a consultation process with all NF involved in Eventing as well as considered with the IOC Qualification principles.

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	<p>encouraging them to desist from competing in their correspondent Regional Games, thereby damaging the competitive quality of the Games and making their individual participation prevail over the conformation of national teams. Therefore, it is considered convenient that the four individual quotas assigned by the regional ranking be obtained as a consequence of the direct participation in the Pan American Games and maintain, as proposed in the reference document, another three quotas linked to the world ranking.</p> <p>The proposal above will have positive consequences: on one hand enabling the possibility of the universal participation of all nations in the Olympic Games based on their respective regional performances and, on the other, it will contribute to increase the level of competitiveness in the Pan American Games by encouraging the participation of those combinations to carry out their sportive activities in the central regions</p>	
<p>USA</p>	<p>Eventing: The Nations Cup series only benefits Nations based in Western Europe / United Kingdom.</p> <p>We object to the 2022 Nations Cup series being used as these Qualification Procedures will be approved after the submission of dates for the 2022 FEI Calendar.</p> <p>The 2022 Nations Cup quota place should be added to the WEG Quota places. WEG is of a comparable level to what the Olympics should be.</p> <p>Supports team of 4</p>	<p>Please refer to Eventing Technical Committee comment in above Executive summary</p>
<p>PAEC</p>	<p>Eventing: Not in favor of giving any slots to the FEI Eventing Nations Cup. Not for the 2022 season nor the 2023 season.</p> <p>We propose that the proposed 2022 Nations Cup Team slot be converted back into the 3 individual slots from where it came. This is a much more universal approach, consistent with the Tokyo Universality principles and the desire for “more flags” and encourages and rewards excellence in Eventing throughout the world.</p> <p>Nations Cups for Eventing considered too Eurocentric”</p> <p>As for the slot proposed for the 2023 Eventing Nations Cup Series, we propose that this be added back to the total slots</p>	<p>Please refer to Eventing Technical Committee comment in above Executive summary</p>

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	available through the Eventing World Championship an event which all of the world's nations can target, access and fund participation in.	
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