

Dear John,

Please find comments from the Swedish NF below.

Harmonization of entry fees worldwide

The proposal from the FEI is far too expensive and destroys the structure of building up young horses and riders. It's not applicable for Europe as it widens the gap between basic and high performance sport and damage the important connection of sport and breeding. We fear that the number of international events will be reduced. We have to protect the development in our sport and our upcoming riders and horses. The Swedish NF strongly support the recommendation of the EEF Jumping Working Group.

Future of the FEI Nations Cup jumping

Nations Cup is a very important product that we have to defend. It brings more interest in the sport for people not very involved in the equestrian sport. There are several countries that during the last couple of years have made a remarkable development and are now in the sport with success.

If the number of GCT events are increasing, it will be hard to have our highest ranked riders in the team for Nations Cup, especially as we are a small country with a limited group of top riders and horses.

For the future of the FEI Nations Cup we strongly recommend;

- Division 1 from 2018: 10 teams, 8 shows, 6 guaranteed shows, 4 results to count
- More ranking points in the Nations Cup and in the Grand Prix at a CSIO events

Invitation system - Comments regarding CSI4* Stockholm

The rules seem to be designed after the normal set-up with classes of 40-60 participants. I Stockholm we have had the same system for twenty-five years with only 18 rider of which 50% have been home athletes. This formula has contributed greatly to the fact that we are the largest indoor horse show in the world. We are picking the best riders with a personality and are selling them successfully to the audience and media.

The suggested rules make it very difficult in our situation. May we suggest an alternative rule for competitions like ours:

"If the total number of invited rider are 20 or less 15% are compulsory invitations, 50% home athletes and 35% OC invitations. The compulsory invitations have to include all extra compulsory riders such as reigning champions and riders nominated by the FEI."

We do hope that it is also in the interest of the FEI not to ruin what is laboriously built up during many years. We fully understand, appreciate and support the ideas and reasons behind the new proposed rules, but we would most kindly ask for a sensitive and sensible application to our special situation.

Kind regards

Ulf Brömster – President of the Swedish NF
Ann-Catrine Bengtsson – Secretary General