
DRIVING ROUND TABLE

9 April 2013

Karoly Fugli, Chairman of the FEI Driving Committee, opened the Round Table and explained the aim of the Technical Committee (TC) in proposing a new format of competition: For 2014, the focus will be on increasing athlete participation in the Sport, giving existing athletes more opportunities to compete internationally, be open to the younger generation and explore ways of making the sport more attractive to audiences, sponsors and new Nations.

Bettina de Rham, FEI Driving Director, addressed the audience to present the main proposals, based on a new Competitions format and structure (Dressage, Marathon and Cones), the FEI Officials requirements at new levels and in the future, aim for a new Scoring system.

Competition format: introducing a new star levels in competitions (1, 2, 3 and 4-star), with a suitable qualification system.

Dressage: revision of the Dressage test is foreseen with the introduction of shorter tests and different levels of difficulty in line with the competition new star levels.

Marathon: a new proposal to merge sections A and Transfer was presented. This proposal was welcomed by the audience. The TC/FEI informed the audience that the present marathon format would also be monitored as it was just newly enforced in view of the introduction of new Rules (test year in 2013). A number of delegates suggested that the warm-up phase should be removed from the competition format

Cones: the main focus is to make Cones competition for attractive both in terms of performance and for the audience. The main focus will be on the competition format, with the proposal to introduce a Winning Round, and to allow the use of the marathon carriage at certain levels.

Qualification system: the proposed qualification system was well received. Further to comments from the audience, the FEI confirmed that it will be reviewed to take into consideration national qualification system already enforced in countries like GER, AUT and FRA and to address age groups who will change categories (from Juniors to Young Drivers to Seniors). A transitional period will also be implemented.

Starting order: the FEI confirmed that the starting order system (draw for Dressage and reverse order of classification after previous competition for Marathon and Cones) newly introduced for CAIOs and Championships, would in the future apply to all categories. Frank Kemperman (NED) proposed that the FEI Rankings be used for the draw of the Dressage and the OC should be able to have a different group of draw depending on their rank. This solution will be considered by the TC as the FEI will be able, in the future, to produce additional Rankings in line of those produced in Jumping.

Prize money: the question on prize-money was raised for the new Event star system proposed.

The FEI/TC confirmed that the main objective of the change is to improve the Sport based on performance and no longer on prize money. A minimum amount of Prize-money will still be enforced for World Cup Qualifier events.

Risk Management: Fritz Otto-Erley from the GER National Federation (NF) sent in a proposal to start to work on Risk Management and Horse welfare in Driving. The FEI/TC is very interested in the project and will consider the request with the Committee meeting.

Youth Championship: the question of the format for Youth Championships was raised by the NF GER. the format for the 2013 Youth Championships was confirmed and the FEI/TC also confirmed that the format will be reviewed to be included in the FEI Driving Rules.

Championships formats: Frank Spadinger from the AUT NF raised the topic of Championship format and whether it is not time to include Singles and Pairs at WEG. Such format could be run as test at a Championship or at WEG, considering the 2018 edition is likely to take place overseas again. The Driving Technical Committee will study all possibilities and feasibility.