

Session 8 – Eventing Rules Revision

Eventing Committee's Summary of proposals for 2017 Rules for Eventing revision

INTRODUCTION & PROCEDURE:

The Eventing Committee chaired by Giuseppe Della Chiesa, including Marcin Konarski (POL) Deputy Chairman, Marilyn Payne (USA), Daisy Berkeley (GBR), Rüdiger Schwarz (GER) and Patricia Clifton (GBR), together with the FEI Eventing Department have collected views from all parties involved (NFs, OCs, Riders and Officials) and held open discussion on the main topics part of the statutory Rules revision for 2017 proposals through a consultation process and discussion at open forums in:

- Toronto CAN - 16 April 2015, during the Pan American Games
- Blair Castle GBR - 10 September 2015 during the European Championships
- Boekelo NED - 8 October 2015, during the Special Olympic Qualifier for group F&G

A number of proposals are also linked to the review of the Olympic Formats and enhanced presentation and explanation of the discipline.

The Eventing Committee will meet after the Open Forum to finalize all recommendations and comments. A 1st draft of the 2017 Eventing Rules changes will be sent out all NFs on **15 July 2016** and published on the FEI web-site asking for comments.

All comments will be reviewed by the Eventing technical committee and a final draft sent out to NFs **late October** in line with the FEI Statutes for the General Assembly.

This document focuses on the main concepts discussed by the Committee to allow further discussion with the NFs to collect the views before proposing detailed rule changes.

1. General point: Continuation of current rule book system or one rule book including all Dressage and Jumping rules applying for Eventing

Further to the suggestion of senior officials to establish specific Dressage and Jumping regulations for Eventing and not refer to separate rules of the two other Olympic disciplines, the Eventing Committee is suggesting to maintaining the current approach to the Dressage and Jumping Rule book and specify only the exceptions as it is felt important to provide a certain cohesion between disciplines as the evolution of the 2 Olympic disciplines are closely related to Eventing.

It is proposed that the communication with the relevant technical disciplines needs to be enhanced, and a review of the existing rules to clearly define the exceptions will be made.

2. COMPETITION LEVELS & FORMATS

Further to discussion in the past years with many nations, and taking into account the recommendations of the Independent Eventing Audit, the Eventing Committee wishes to propose:

1. The introduction of a lower level event of a XC at 1.05 meter level. This new category would allow a smoother transition between national and international competitions in the developing countries. The level can be used for the Pony championship and can be the basis for developing a Children level/category in Eventing.

2. As a consequence shift the star system up one level, the new level to become new 1 star, current 1 star = new 2 star, current 2 star = new 3 star, current 3 star = new 4 star
3. Rename as a separate category named "Classics" the current 4 star allowing also for a short format version.
4. Bring in line the technical requirements for WEG and Olympic Games

Formats: For (new) 1 star and 2 star levels is proposed to study a unified competition format for each level while for (new) 3 and 4 star is proposed to retain both the long and short format.

Championships: Current 1, 2 & 3star championships will be held at the new 2, 3 & 4 star level of competition.

Olympic Games and WEG: technical requirements as per current Olympic format with an option to be discussed if to retain or not the second Jumping test.

Taking into account the observation and recommendation coming from the Eventing Audit (Charles Barnet) the advantage of this approach is that the Athlete/Horse combinations would be able to qualify at the same cross country level of the Championships using an established and geographically well spread system of existing competitions.

"Classics": a separate level of special competitions where the technical requirements are to be maintained as per current CCI4* with minor adjustments; while prizemoney, other organizational requirements and more in general all eligibility criteria to be reviewed in consultation with Organizers in order to ensure the highest standards and quality of Events. A short "Classics" format also to be introduced.

<i>Current</i>	NEW	
	CI1*	1 star (unified)
<i>CIC1* & CCI1*</i>	CI2*	2 star (unified)
<i>CIC2* & CCI2*</i>	CIC3* - CCI3*	3 star (short and long)
<i>CIC3* & CCI3*</i>	CIC4* - CCI4*	4 star (short and long)
<i>Olympic</i>	Olympic - WEG	Olympic & WEG format
<i>CCI4*</i>	Classics	Classics (short and long)

CROSS-COUNTRY (distances- jumping efforts -speeds)

To be updated including the following:

- allow wider bracket of cross country distance/efforts for unified formats
- possibility of 2 more efforts on Cross Country for "Classics" events, as well as 2/3 ascending oxers to be of 125cm in the back
- introduction of a minimum jumpable width for xc fences in the Cross Country Guidelines

3. QUALIFICATIONS OF ATHLETES & HORSES (MER)

The Eventing Committee is proposing review of the Eligibility requirements further also to the conclusions of the Eventing Independent Audit.

- to follow the qualification principle that the qualification needs to be made at the level of the championship, is proposed for all Championships.

- It is proposed to revise the MER parameters to ensure the standard of participation of all athletes and horses:

Test	New	Current requirements
Dressage	not more 67 than Penalty points	75 Penalty points
Cross Country	Max of 20 penalties at obstacle (not more than 60 seconds exceeding the optimum time (or due to special weather conditions the best time of the day if all athletes are over the optimum time)	Clear at obstacle (not more than 90 seconds exceeding the optimum time)
Jumping	not more than 12 penalties at obstacles	not more than 16 penalties at obstacles

4. DRESSAGE TESTS

- New additional short and long 4-star Dressage
- New 1 star test
- Shorter time for the Dressage Test (e.g. speed up entry and exit of horses in the arena, deletion of collective marks, taking out 1st salute etc.)

5. POSITIVE SCORING

Taking into account the suggestions of several NFs in regard to the removal of the coefficient for Dressage and implementation of a positive scoring, the Eventing Committee is suggesting two alternative proposals for a new scoring system, to help make the understanding of the sport more self-explanatory to a wider audience in line with the IOC Agenda 2020:

- **Proposal A:** Dressage percentage to represent directly (without coefficient) the positive score from where to eventually deduct current Cross Country and Jumping penalties. Athlete with the highest score wins.

For the purpose of the Team competition a combination non-completing the Cross Country Test will be awarded 80/100 penalties a combination not passing the horse inspection or non-completing the Jumping test will be awarded 40/50 penalties (to be discussed).

- **Proposal B:** Each tests is valued from a maximum of 100 points and added together. Dressage score is given by dressage percentage (without coefficient), XC score is given by 100 deducted of any jumping or time faults; Jumping score is given by 100 deducted by any Jumping or time faults. Final score is given by adding together the scores of the three tests. Athlete with the highest score wins.

For the purpose of the Team competition any test non-completed will be awarded 0 points.

6. Dress code

For the Eventing Dressage and Jumping tests, the Eventing Committee suggests to line up with the proposals coming from the relevant disciplines. For the Cross Country test all nations will have to use national flag colours for dress and saddle pads to clearly identify and differentiate the countries. Colours and pattern to be registered in advance to allow differences between nations.

7. Renaming of the discipline

Further to proposals of FEI external consultancy, the Eventing Committee are suggesting the following options for the review of the NFs to promote the **understanding of the sport to new audiences**:

- Equestrian Triathlon
- Equi-triathlon
- Equestrio
- Triquestrian

8. OTHER POINTS FOR 2017 RULES FOR EVENTING

Further to the general changes proposed above, the Eventing Committee are proposing also for implementation the following updates for the rules clarify and improve wordings, including requests from NFs received in October 2015:

- **Additional CIO** (art.501.2): It is suggested to line up with the General Regulations and allow the possibility in exceptional circumstances to organize one Young Rider or Junior Official competition per country in addition to a Senior Official competition.
- **Prizemoney** (art.505.3.1): It is proposed to remove the mandatory split of PM for team competition. The reason being that should a few number of teams participate it is difficult to follow the "not more than one third of the total amount of money" to be awarded to the winner.
- **Entries and Certificate of Capability** (art.509 and 516): update to align articles with the implementation of the FEI Online Entry System.
- **National Officials** (art. 513): It is suggested to amend this article to allow Assistant Technical Delegate, Assistant Course Designer & Assistant Steward to officiate abroad, providing they have the correct insurance coverage.
- **Spurs**: "Vertical" requirement for spurs would be removed to align with Dressage Rules.

Cross Country Test: Faults at Obstacles:

The Bureau will be asked for approval for immediate implementation of the following change referring to adapting the wording 1* Explanatory note and procedure for the implementation of the penalties for activation of a frangible pin. The reason is to allow additional deformable devices to be used in events this year. The deformable device in question has been reviewed by the different testing authorities.

1* Explanatory note and procedure for the implementation of the penalty for "Activating a frangible device": *Each Athlete activating a frangible device will be awarded 11 penalties whenever the activation occurs as expected (i.e. activation by significant pressure exerted by the Horse which modifies the dimension of the fence). In the case (...)*

Indoor/Arena Cross Country Rules:

Guidelines were formulated in 2015 for OCs and NFs for Indoor Cross Country organized at major indoor Jumping/Dressage events as demonstration/promotion classes.

Further to the request and several discussions with some NFs and Organizers, the Bureau have recommended that the Committee establish specific Rules, as these competitions are not defined either as national or international classes and neither under the Jumping or Eventing Rules.

These events as they are becoming increasingly popular to organize and are very successful as a great advertisement for the sport. Some event presented however not so good pictures for the sport.

To ensure the best pictures and advertisement two key elements were identified by the Committee.

a) the need to open the classes only to properly qualified athletes (level A & B categorized athletes) b) propose a 2 phase course including the 1st phase over fixed obstacles on optimum time and a 2nd phase against the clock on obstacles with a certain degree of knockability.

The Eventing Committee will be proposing rules to be included as an annex in the 2017 Eventing Rules :

- Competition will be opened to A and B Categorized Athletes only
- two phase competitions: 1. On table A with XC country obstacles only, which will set the number of penalty points; 2 part. table C at fixed speed (according to size of arena) with only knockable/brush fences.
- Prizemoney & expenses: at the discretion of the OC, however the principle of a demonstration class and not a high level competition
- An listed FEI Eventing Judge to be appointed
- A FEI 3&4 Eventing CD to collaborate with the appointed Jumping CD
- Promotion aspect of Eventing as Discipline
- Commentators: with experience in Eventing – brief to be prepared, video clips available for big screen to show the “real sport” (outdoor, 3 disciplines etc)
- FEI Eventing Rules Horse Welfare / Risk management to apply i.e. Cross country penalties, dangerous riding, sanctions etc, to be explained by commentator.

9. Independent Eventing Audit

The Eventing Committee reviewed the full Independent Eventing Audit report and further to approval of the Bureau are recommending:

1. The report be published with the comments of the Eventing Committee
2. Improvement of analysis of data collected by the FEI through appointment of specific experts to perform an ongoing review of data, indicators, trends and monitor impact of rule changes and rule proposals with objective scientific based methods. 2 persons that would be able to provide this input and would report to the Eventing department have been identified.
3. Organizing a yearly Course Designer/Technical Delegates meeting to coordinate initiatives, exchange best practices and share specific information on course designing and new technologies.
4. A reviewed qualification process and higher technical parameters for minimum eligibility requirements (MERS) together with the above mentioned new categorization system of event.