Session 5 - Endurance - Qualification of Horses and Athletes: reducing welfare risks

I – Summary

The latest findings in the Global Endurance Injuries Study (GEIS) were presented by Professor Timothy Parkin, member of the FEI Veterinary Committee and the Endurance Temporary Committee, who heads up the research programme for the GEIS. Professor Parkin and his team at the University of Glasgow have used the huge range of data collected to show that previous and recent Failed To Qualify (FTQ) classifications and low previous completion rates increased the risk of an FTQ at following rides.

Committee member Valerie Kanavy provided details of a proposed innovative completion percentage system, based on capped speeds for qualification up through the ranks from CEI 1* to Championships. This pyramid system would allow free speed only for those with a completion rate of 66% or over.

"You ride smart, you take care of your horse, you have successful completions, the faster you can go", she said. "We've brought horsemanship and successful completion percentages back into the qualification process. Ride smart, ride safe, you can get to the top."

II – Suggestions/comments received from the floor

- To cap the speed on the first loops.
- To have a combination ride compulsory in the qualification process to championships.
- Free speed goes against the goal of the Sport.
- Start from 16 Kph to 18 Kph and 18Kph until 20 Kph and 20 Kph until reaching 24 Kph and thereafter allow for free speed.
- To educate more the Athlete.
- To have a way to include the happiness of the horses in the veterinary inspections.
- Currently there are insufficient CEIs that would allow a horse to go up the ladder in order to achieve free speed. This is too demanding for a horse.
- Maintain the current rules but increase the number of qualifications.
- To participate in a Championship you must qualify as a combination.
- Reconsider the age limit of the horse to compete in Endurance.
- The Level 1 requirement is too hard to achieve.
- For small countries this process can be too long. Classes must be created.