

## **Session 6 - Endurance - Educating Officials and correct application of the rules**

### **I – Summary**

FEI Vice President Mark Samuel, presented the 15 recommendations of the Officials Working Group and the additional proposals on these recommendations from the Endurance Temporary Committee.

Endurance Temporary Committee member Pieter Wiersinga addressed the topic of integrity and leadership by focusing on the Code of Conduct for FEI Officials and the correct and robust application of the rules. Proposals were centred around the appointment and rotation of officials, improved training, reinforcement of the role of the Independent Governance Advisors (IGA), stronger follow up system for Officials' reporting to the FEI and tackling corruption.

FEI Director of Education and Officials, Frank Spadinger explained the principles of the FEI's new proposed Endurance Education System, which is pending approval. These include the organisation of Officials' education, career pathways and the criteria for transfer (up and down) and maintenance. The criteria for transfer and maintenance include theoretical and practical assessments and officiating experience.

FEI Endurance and Driving Director Manuel Bandeira de Mello provided information on the current process regarding the appointment of Officials, and the FEI's support and supervision of these Officials. In future, and in line with existing rules, the appointment of Officials will be done by the FEI in consultation with the Endurance Technical Committee and the Organising Committee. Clear selection criteria based on integrity, competence and English language skills will allow for better officiating performance and a level playing field.

He also spoke about Officials' reports, with plans for an enhanced reporting system aimed at improving accurate reporting based on a better follow-up system and confidence among Officials.

FEI Legal Director Mikael Rentsch explained the existing sanctions in Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication cases, and also sanctions for horse abuse and under the new Hyposensitivity Control System. The possibility of extending a trainer's suspension to include all of his/her horses was discussed, with the Legal Director emphasising that the principle of proportionality must be respected in all sanctions.

### **II – Suggestions/comments received from the floor**

- Officials profiles made readily available so that OCs can choose from the database the Officials for their event.
- Online Anti-Doping education available for everyone.
- Courses content must be done by experienced officials.
- Officials appointment from the FEI should also be applied to lower level events.

- To index the Vets to the number of starters. FEI to be actively involved in the appointment of officials.
- FEI to provide incentives to candidates that wish to become an FEI Officials