



BAKU (AZE)  
11-14 December 2014

## **FEI GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Baku (AZE), 14 December 2014

**Quorum:** 131 National Federations were represented at the FEI General Assembly 2014 (91 in person and 40 by proxy)

### **Summary of Main Decisions:**

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## **AFFILIATION**

The FEI General Assembly approved the affiliation of the Equestrian Federation of Angola (Federação Equestre de Angola) to the FEI. This brings the number of National Federations affiliated to the FEI to 133.

## **MODIFICATIONS TO FEI REGULATIONS**

The General Assembly approved the modifications to the **FEI Internal Regulations**. The Internal Regulations of the FEI, effective 15 December 2014, will be published on the FEI website [HERE](#).

The General Assembly approved the modifications to the **FEI General Regulations**.

The main changes include:

- **Open Championships**

The concept of "Open Championships" has been removed so that regional/continental championships are now limited to participants from National Federations in that region/continent.

- **Time limit for appeals to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)**

Under the Code of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), the time limit for appealing a decision to the CAS is 21 days. In order to ensure uniformity across all FEI rules, the appeal period for any appeal to the CAS has been shortened from 30 to 21 days.

The FEI General Regulations, 23<sup>rd</sup> edition, update effective 1 January 2015, will be published on the FEI website [HERE](#).

## **JUMPING**

The General Assembly approved modifications to the FEI Jumping Rules. The 25<sup>th</sup> edition, with updates effective 1 January 2015, will be posted on the FEI website [HERE](#).

## **DRESSAGE**

The General Assembly approved modifications to the FEI Dressage Rules. The 25<sup>th</sup> edition, with updates effective 1 January 2015, will be posted on the FEI website [HERE](#).

The Technical Committee Chairman presented a brief working paper on the future of Dressage, including the use of music, quota for FEI Championships, level of prize money, judging, and new harmonised formats.

The new formats in Dressage, Jumping, and Eventing will be discussed in depth at next year's Sports Forum in Lausanne (SUI).

## **PARA-DRESSAGE**

The General Assembly approved modifications to the FEI Para-Equestrian Dressage Rules. The third edition, with updates effective 1 January 2015, will be posted on the FEI website [HERE](#).

A Classification Working Group has been appointed to work on a fair and transparent medical classification system of Para-Dressage athletes from 2014 onwards. As the current classification system was created some time ago with competitions on borrowed horses in mind, the Classification Working Group has been asked to update the system.

In addition, a Compensating Aids Panel has been appointed. Its task will be to oversee non-standard compensating aids that currently have to be approved by the Technical Delegate at an event. The panel will start its work at the beginning of 2015.

The existing Para ID Cards, which until now had to be carried by athletes during competition, will be replaced by an internet based Classification Master List as of 1 January 2015.

## **EVENTING**

The General Assembly approved the modifications to the FEI Eventing Rules. The key changes include:

- Review of tack to line up with the FEI Dressage and Jumping Rules;
- Clarification of Cross Country rules (breakable devices);
- Review of Pony Rules;
- Introduction of the new medical information procedures at events with additional responsibility being placed on the athletes.

The FEI Eventing Rules, 24<sup>th</sup> edition with updates effective 1 January 2015, will be published on the FEI website [HERE](#).

Six new Dressage Tests (two for each of the 1, 2 and 3 star categories) are currently being finalised and will be implemented on 1 March 2015. The tests will be of similar technical difficulty and timings to the old ones.

## **DRIVING**

The General Assembly approved modifications to the FEI Driving Rules. The 11<sup>th</sup> edition, with updates effective 1 January 2015, will be posted on the FEI website [HERE](#).

## **VAULTING**

The General Assembly approved the full revision of the FEI Vaulting Rules. The 9<sup>th</sup> edition, effective 1 January 2015, will be available on the FEI website [HERE](#).

## **REINING**

The General Assembly approved modifications to the FEI Reining Rules. The 4<sup>th</sup> edition, with updates effective 1 January 2015, will be posted on the FEI website [HERE](#).

## **OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES**

The FEI President provided a detailed update on the recommendations that make up Olympic Agenda 2020, a strategic roadmap for the future of the Olympic Movement, which were unanimously approved by the 127<sup>th</sup> IOC Session in Monaco at the beginning of the week.

"These recommendations call for change, a renewed effort on our part and an acceptance that our sport and the way we package it has to be updated in order to remain top products," HRH Princess Haya said. "There are many things that are very good about our sport and they are being recognised, but there is no room for complacency. Olympic Agenda 2020 requires continued respect of our past and traditions but demands that we be brave enough to face our future."

IOC member in Japan and Honorary FEI Vice President Tsunekazu Takeda thanked Princess Haya for the excellent presentation. "Universality, cost effectiveness, and popularity of a sport are very important for the Olympic Games", he said. "It is our duty to protect the

three Olympic equestrian disciplines." Takeda is Vice-President of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Organising Committee and a member of the FEI Olympic Council.

An update was given on preparations for the Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games by FEI Director Games and Championships Tim Hadaway. He reported that upgrades to the existing Olympic Equestrian Centre are underway and will ultimately include both new and renovated stables, resurfacing of all arenas and development of a veterinary clinic. Landscaping for the Eventing Cross Country course is nearing completion and conditioning of the grass footing is underway. All other aspects of operational planning, including horse import and export, athlete transportation and accommodation, as well as anti-doping and veterinary aspects, show good signs of progress. The daily timetable has been confirmed by the Organising Committee and IOC. The 2\* Olympic Eventing equestrian test event will take place from 6-9 August 2015.

The General Assembly approved the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games, 24<sup>th</sup> edition, effective for the 2016 Rio Olympic Games.

The qualification system has already been approved by the IOC. The remaining part of the document is pending IOC approval. It will be posted on the FEI website [HERE](#) once approved.

The General Assembly approved the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Paralympic Games, second edition, effective for the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games. The document is subject to approval by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and will be posted on the FEI website [HERE](#) once approval has been granted.

## **YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES**

The General Assembly approved the change of the age category for the Youth Olympic Games (YOG). The YOG will now be open to riders aged between 15 and 18 years old. The previous age limit had been 17 and 18.

## **ALLTECH FEI WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES™ 2014 IN NORMANDY**

A presentation from the Organising Committee (OC) reviewing the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games™ 2014 in Normandy, including highlights and key facts and figures, was made. A final report will be published in January 2015, prior to dissolution of the Organising Committee at the end of March 2015. The OC CEO Fabien Grobon thanked all the members of the FEI Family who had given input, advice and support through the years of planning. He encouraged National Federations to consider bidding to host future Games.

## **ELECTIONS**

Ingmar De Vos (BEL) was today elected as President of the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) by an overwhelming majority in the first round of voting, earning 98 votes out of a possible 131. The full press release is available [HERE](#).

On the proposal of the newly elected FEI President, the General Assembly approved the composition of the **Executive Board** as follows:

FEI 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: John Madden (USA)

FEI 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: HH Sheikh Khalid Bin Abdulla Al Khalifa (BRN)

Luiz Roberto Giugni (BRA)

Frank Kemperman (NED)

Athlete representative: Maria Gretzer (SWE)

Following his election as FEI President, Ingmar De Vos resigned from his role as FEI Secretary General at the end of the General Assembly. He announced that the current FEI Director of Governance and Executive Affairs Sabrina Zeender (SUI) would take over as interim Secretary General until a permanent replacement is found, and this was approved at the second Bureau meeting immediately after the close of the General Assembly.

### **Regional Group Chairs**

**Group II:** Hanfried Haring (GER) was re-elected for a third and final term in office (2014-2018)

**Group VI:** Luiz Roberto Giugni (BRA) was re-elected for a second term in office (2014-2018)

### **Deputy chairs**

**Group I:** Sandra Widmer (SUI) was elected for a period of two years (2014-2016) replacing Manuel Bandeira de Mello (POR), who was recently appointed as FEI Director of Endurance

**Group II:** Ulf Helgstrand (DEN) was re-elected for a period of four years (2014-2018)

**Group V:** Daniela Garcia Nigaglioni (MEX) was elected for a period of three years (2014-2017) replacing Maria del Rosario Garcia (COL)

**Group VI:** Gabriel Vidal (URU) was re-elected for a period of four years (2014-2018)

### **Veterinary Committee Chair**

John McEwen (GBR) was re-elected for a third and final term in office (2014-2018)

### **FEI Audit and Compliance Committee Member**

Janice Shardlow (GBR) was elected as a member of the FEI Audit and Compliance Committee, replacing outgoing member Atila Costa (ARG) for a term of four years (2014-2018).

## **VETERINARY MATTERS**

The General Assembly approved the modifications to the FEI Veterinary Regulations.

The key changes are related to official veterinarians; equine identification and biosecurity; injuries and fatalities surveillance; the Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Programme; the High Health High Performance Horse (HHP) concept; and additional sanctions to ensure harmonised application across all the FEI disciplines.

More frequent education of the official veterinarians as well as improved communication with them has been made compulsory.

Monitoring and sanctioning irregularities, communication with national partners, and higher flexibility with regards to appointing National Head Veterinarians have been introduced. A new form to record any microchip irregularities that may affect identification of the horse has been made available. The newly approved changes foresee exemptions for National Federations where domestic legislation prevents the use of equine influenza vaccines. The responsibility of National Head Veterinarians in informing the FEI of any equine communicable disease outbreaks has been highlighted.

The reporting of injuries and fatalities has been improved and the funds available for post mortem examinations has been increased and can now be used to cover associated transport costs. Serious injuries must be reported within 48 hours of the end of the event. The timeframe in reporting horse fatalities related to FEI events has been removed. Any fatal illnesses or injury, which occurs after an FEI event but is related to it in any way, must be reported to the relevant NF who in turn will inform the FEI.

New measures in support of the Equine Anti-Doping Medication Control Programme were introduced. They include sanctions for treating a horse in an area other than the designated treatment box, as well as fines for failure to report a fatal illness or injury, failure to produce a horse's passport at an FEI event, and in the event of a microchip being found in a horse that does not match the information held on the FEI database.

The High Health High Performance Horse (HHP) concept will be rolled out next year and will be applied at selected major FEI events where HHP horses will have to meet specific criteria such as high health status, permanent identification, registration, records of all veterinary examinations, and compliance with an international biosecurity plan.

Harmonised rules to mitigate challenges across all the FEI disciplines have been introduced. These include horse inspection surface guidelines, a summary table outlining the discipline-specific officials required at horse inspections, as well as additional sanctions ensuring unified application across all the disciplines.

The FEI Veterinary Regulations, 13<sup>th</sup> edition, with updates effective 1 January 2015 will be published on the FEI website [HERE](#).

The general acceptance of the HHP principle, the launch of the FEI online veterinary report, which feeds directly into FEI databases, the global Endurance injury study and recent launch of the Injury Surveillance System (ISS) were noted as the successes of 2014.

#### **EQUINE ANTI-DOPING AND CONTROLLED MEDICATION REGULATIONS (EADCMRs)**

The General Assembly approved the modifications to the EADCMRs. The main changes were introduced to incorporate the approach of the 2015 World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Code, which will come into effect on 1 January 2015, where suitable.

The FEI has clarified its policy on the use of supplements/vitamins and contaminated products. The use of supplements and vitamins is at the Person Responsible's (PR) own risk. The rules will include a provision whereby the PRs, who have been warned about the possibility of supplement contamination, are responsible for what their horses ingest. It is a recommendation to enter all supplements in a log book.

The EADCMRs effective 1 January 2015 will be published on the FEI website [HERE](#).

#### **FEI ANTI-DOPING RULES FOR HUMAN ATHLETES**

The General Assembly approved the modifications to the FEI Anti-Doping Rules for Human Athletes (ADRHA) which are fully compliant with the 2015 WADA Code.

A key change is the **increase of the "base level" period of ineligibility of athletes from two to four years.**

Another important modification is the **introduction of the offence of "Prohibited Association"** making it an offence for an athlete to associate with an Athlete Support Person who is currently serving a period of ineligibility for violation of anti-doping rules or who has been convicted or otherwise found to be guilty of a serious doping offence.

The FEI Anti-Doping Rules for Human Athletes based on the 2015 WADA Code effective 1 January 2015 will be published on the FEI website [HERE](#).

## **WORLDWIDE FEE FOR FEI EQUINE AND HUMAN ANTI-DOPING AND MEDICATION CONTROL PROGRAMME**

The General Assembly approved the Bureau's proposal for changes to the financial structure of the FEI Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Programme in order to apply the anti-doping programmes for human athletes and horses worldwide.

The principle used by the FEI Bureau in the review process was that the revenue for the Equine and Human Anti-Doping Programmes must come from taxation based upon the participation of horses at events and not upon the amount of prize-money distributed.

The following revised fees were adopted:

Lower Level events: CHF 18.00 per horse per event (+ 44%)

Higher Level events: CHF 25.00 per horse per event (+100%)

## **FEI SOLIDARITY**

The General Assembly approved the report on the activities of FEI Solidarity in 2014 presented by the FEI President. No less than 35 new projects from 23 National Federations were approved and will be funded as of 2015.

Additional projects were approved by the FEI Solidarity Committee and will be managed by the FEI Solidarity Department. These include an IT platform for use by the NFs and training programmes for Treating Veterinarians and for National Head Veterinarians (NHVs).

Alongside the NFs projects supported by FEI Solidarity, the FEI Solidarity Department is operating other projects such as the Eventing Development programme in Latin America, the Balkans and FEI Group IX; the FEI Coach Education Programme; and the FEI World Jumping and Dressage Challenges.

In 2014, the FEI Solidarity Officer visited 15 NFs where he conducted audits and provided advice on the organisations' strategic plans, sports structures and infrastructures.

## **FEI SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The General Assembly approved the composition of the FEI Solidarity Committee for a one-year term:

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Group I    | Ingmar De Vos, FEI President                 |
| Group II   | Jukka-Pekka Leskinen (FIN), President FIN NF |
| Group III  | Alexandru Tuceac (MDA), President MDA NF     |
| Group IV   | Pat Chemaly (HAI), President HAI NF          |
| Group V    | Rosana Roig (PUR), President PUR NF          |
| Group VI   | Fatima Morales (PAR), President PAR NF       |
| Group VII  | HRH Princess Haya                            |
| Group VIII | Mikaela Cojuango Jaworski (PHI), IOC Member  |
| Group IX   | Ibrahima Wade (SEN), President SEN NF        |

## **EDUCATION AND STANDARDS: FEI CAMPUS**

In 2014, FEI Solidarity received a significant donation which will allow the implementation of the FEI Campus, an online education platform for the international equestrian community.

It is a learning environment that will give all members of the FEI Family access to online courses and seminars free of charge.

The FEI Campus will be online by the end of 2015 with courses for Jumping, Dressage, Endurance, and Vaulting. Courses for the other FEI disciplines will follow.

### **FEI SPORTS FORUM 2015**

The FEI Sports Forum 2015 will take place on 27 and 28 April (and not on 26 and 27 April as previously announced) at the IMD business school in Lausanne (SUI).

### **HONORARY POSITIONS**

Outgoing FEI President HRH Princess Haya was made FEI Honorary President.

Outgoing 2<sup>nd</sup> FEI Vice President Pablo Mayorga (ARG) was made FEI Honorary Vice President.

### **BUREAU MEETING**

A Bureau meeting, chaired by the newly elected FEI President Ingmar De Vos, took place immediately after the General Assembly.

The main decision are listed below.

### **FEI VETERINARY COMMITTEE**

Kent Allen (USA) and Colin Roberts (GBR) were appointed to replace outgoing members Stephen Schumacher (USA) and Jennifer Hall (GBR) for a term of four years (2014-2018).

### **APPOINTMENT OF PAEC BOARD MEMBER**

The Bureau approved the nomination of Pablo Mayorga (ARG) as the FEI representative on the Pan American Equestrian Confederation (PAEC) board.

### **DRESSAGE QUALIFICATION PROCEDURE FOR PAN AMERICAN GAMES 2015**

The Bureau approved the qualification procedure and competition format for the Dressage events at the Pan American Games 2015.

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