

GBR NF Response on Proposed Changes put forward by the FEI Jumping Committee

We would firstly like to thank the FEI for the communication we have received regarding proposed changes from the Jumping Committee. We have consulted with the various stakeholders involved which included our Riders, Chef, OCs and Officials and we would be grateful if you could pass the below comments to the Jumping Committee and appropriate personnel within the FEI.

Harmonisation

Whilst we understand the wish to harmonise the different entry fees that currently exist between North America/Canada and Europe/Rest of the World the proposal that has been put forward significantly changes the profile of the athletes and owners who will be in a position to support international shows from GBR/Europe within the next 5 years.

We cannot support the proposal as it will stop the sport being accessible to everyone and restrict it to being a sport solely for those with significant financial means or access to owners or sponsors with significant budgets.

Within our Federation we have seen the number of International Jumping shows treble in the last 5 years and this has also been supported by a significant increase in Rider Licences and Horse Passports, all of which provide an income to the FEI. It seems strange when there is a financial model in place which is clearly providing a platform for growth in the Sport in Europe that you would want to change this dramatically to a model which puts a significant increase of financial burden onto the athletes/owners.

We note the mention of a correlation between entry fees and scoring within the Event Classification however without any values being attributed to the weighting between minimum and maximum entry fees we cannot comment on how this might impact.

Free Market

There is mention in the document of the wish to move towards a Free Market with less regulation – we would like to ask if this is an aim of the FEI in principle which might then be replicated across the other sports or whether this is solely a Jumping Committee position.

We see little evidence in the documentation provided of a reduction in regulation and what is being proposed is a move away from a set entry fee to an entry fee which has to sit between a minimum and maximum amount.

GBR Proposal

We understand that some OCs are finding it difficult to run their shows successfully within the current constraints; however, given the growth in number of shows at all levels over the last few years, it appears there are many OCs who view the current model as one which can provide viable shows.

Our suggestion would be for the Jumping Committee in conjunction with the Jumping Department/NFs to request feedback on the viability of current competitions at the various levels and look at this in relation to the number of starters at each of the shows.

It may well be that after carrying out this work that a level of entry fee can be determined for each level of show and perhaps a percentage increase in relation to inflation could be added on an annual basis.

If there is a real need to harmonise entry fees across the World then we would ask that more work is done to understand how the respective models (American v European) deliver the aims and objectives of the FEI which must include ensuring that the sport remains accessible to all athletes not just those with significant financial backing, whilst also ensuring opportunities to bring on Young Horses for the future.

Future of Nations Cup

Our Federation appreciates the work that has gone into reaching an agreement with the organisers of the GCT/GCL however we would like the FEI to look at ways of ensuring that the Nations Cup competitions retain their status within the sport. We support the suggestions of the EEF Jumping Working Group in this respect.

Jumping Committee

Due to the strength of Jumping competitions in Europe both in terms of number of shows and number of athletes we would like to ask the FEI to consider ways of ensuring an appropriate European presence on the Jumping Committee.

Blood Rule

Our Federation notes the recent clarification of the blood rule for Jumping and we fully support the FEI on its position in this matter.

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