

6 and 7 June 2023, Lausanne (SUI)

FEI BOARD MEETING

Lausanne (SUI), 6 and 7 June 2023

The first in-person FEI Board meeting of the year took place on 6 and 7 June at the FEI Headquarters in Lausanne (SUI).

The main resolutions taken by the FEI Board during these two days are summarised below:

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FINANCE**Approval of 2022 Accounts**

The FEI Chief Financial Officer (CFO) presented the 2022 audited financial statement to the Board. Revenues in 2022 amounted to CHF 54,604,845 and expenses to CHF 50,984,538.

The CFO explained that although the year had been very good operationally, the war in Ukraine, the inflation that had followed and the rapid rise in interest rates had driven the financial markets in the red zone as of March 2022 and had had a negative effect on the FEI portfolio. The effect of the rapid rise in interest rates by central banks across the world to fight inflation had been two-fold.

On one hand, it had provoked a recession fear and a slump in the stock market as profit expectations had been lowered for companies due to more expensive borrowing conditions, which had been particularly felt in the tech sector.

In addition, it had driven bond valuations down as bond values move in the opposite of interest rates. Therefore, the valuation at 31 December 2022 had resulted in a loss of CHF 2'497'428 for the FEI financial year 2022.

The CFO clarified that bonds would be reimbursed at 100% of face value when they expired. Consequently, as long as the debtor was of good quality, the loss remained mainly on paper. A loss would be realised if a bond were to be sold, which was not the case.

The audited financial statement for 2022 was unanimously approved by the Board.

Prize Money conversion system

The Board approved the minimum/maximum prize money required for CSIs and CSIOs for 2024 and the minimum/maximum prize money required for the Longines Rankings Groups for 2024.

These proposals were discussed at the FEI Sports Forum 2023 during the session on the Cost of Jumping Events (see summary of the session, including a detailed explanation on the prize money conversion system, [here](#)).

These provisions will be effective for events as of 1 January 2024 and will be published in September 2023.

The process will be done every year in August, for the first time in August 2024 for 2025 once approved through due process at the FEI.

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GOVERNANCE

Equine Ethics and Wellbeing Commission (EEWB)

The Board discussed the Interim Report of the independent Equine Ethics and Wellbeing Commission which was presented by EEWB Commission Chair Dr. Natalie Waran.

At the FEI Sports Forum 2023, the Commission had provided a detailed account of the proposed strategic approach including potential monitoring tools alongside a further 24 Recommendations for addressing the two core strategic objectives related to advancing Equine Welfare and strengthening Social Licence to Operate. The FEI Board agreed to continue discussing and reviewing the recommendations and to proactively apply and implement related measures in 2023 prior to the Final Report due in November.

The Commission will continue with Phase Three of its work plan to gather further information from equestrian stakeholders through surveys and webinars to refine the proposed Strategic Approach and Recommendations in order to present a Final Report to the Board in November 2023. Based on the recommendations of the Board, an action plan will be established and presented at the FEI Sports Forum 2024.

Update on RUS/BLR Protective Measures

The Board confirmed the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) position regarding the principle that there should not be governmental interference in sport and that Athletes should not be discriminated against based upon their nationality.

Awaiting for the clarifications regarding the definition and implementation of neutrality status, the Board maintained the protective measures prohibiting all Russian and Belarusian Athletes, Horses and Officials from participating in FEI Events.

Elections and Appointments 2023

The Board was informed on this year's candidacies for elections and appointments. As a next step, the FEI Nominations Committee will meet on 13-14 June at the FEI Headquarters to vet the candidacies.

The list of candidates for positions to be elected by the FEI General Assembly on 21 November and appointments to be made by the FEI Board on 18 November will be published after the Nominations Committee meeting [here](#).

FEI President Job Description

As it is referred in the [FEI Presidential Programme 2022-2026](#), the Board agreed to review the role of the future FEI President and mandated the Chair of the Audit & Compliance Committee to propose the composition, remit and timeline of a Working Group.

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Update on NF Affiliations and MOUs and Mutual Official Recognition

The Board received updates on NF affiliations and MoUs and Official Mutual Recognition with third parties associations.

FEI Order of Merit

The Board approved the criteria for the creation of the FEI Order of Merit as the highest distinction awarded by the FEI.

The FEI Order of Merit is a recognition for outstanding lifetime achievements, commitment and contributions towards the growth, development, promotion and success of the Equestrian Sport. It is proposed by the FEI President and approved by the FEI Board.

Allocation of FEI General Assembly 2024

The Board allocated the FEI General Assembly 2024 to Oman. The exact dates are subject to confirmation.

National Federations are invited to bid for the FEI General Assembly 2025.

Gender Survey

The Secretary General informed the Board about the implementation of a survey aimed at gathering statistics on gender representation within equestrian sport. It was noted that the number of women at the top levels of some disciplines, such as Jumping, has been decreasing, and that this survey will be crucial for assessing the current situation and gaining insights into the factors that have potentially influenced these changes. As part of the FEI's Solidarity commitments, the survey results will be used to create structural initiatives that can enhance gender equality within the sport, and generate other efforts to promote diversity and inclusion in equestrian activities.

FEI SOLIDARITY

The FEI President provided an overview of activities for FEI Solidarity. He reported that 140 development projects covering a broad spectrum of services and courses were taking place in dozens of countries around the world in line with the four FEI Solidarity pillars: National Federation, Athlete, Coach and Values, and reminded the Board of the annual Course for NF Secretary Generals and Administrators set to take place at the FEI Headquarters from 9 to 13 October where 12 NFs are set to take part.

Over 21 programmes/courses have already been organised and a number of key projects are in the pipeline to be delivered in the next months. Specific examples of Solidarity grants and courses aimed directly at promoting and strengthening horse welfare education and frameworks in a number of NFs were also highlighted, such as scholarships for two Veterinarians from Côte d'Ivoire to receive training for practicing equine veterinarians at a Clinic in France; FEI Solidarity-run biosecurity courses in China, the United Arab

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Emirates, and Namibia; Stable Manager Courses in Brazil, UAE, China, Thailand and Taipei; Grooms Courses in Jordan, Ethiopia, and Zambia; and Farriers courses planned in Kazakhstan, Palestine, Tunisia and Zambia,

The FEI President also provided an update on the FEI World Challenges in Jumping, Dressage, Para Dressage, Eventing, Driving and Vaulting, noting the latest additions of Eventing, Driving, and Para Dressage to the Challenge programme in 2023, highlighting that an Organiser for the FEI Jumping World Challenge Final was still being sought. Number of Challenges, per disciplines, organised and to be organised in 2023.

- JUMPING: 24 shows so far / 84 will be organised = TOTAL 108 shows in 34 NFs
- DRESSAGE: 5 shows so far / 25 will be organised = TOTAL 30 shows in 28 NFs
- VAULTING: 3 shows so far / 6 will be organised = TOTAL 9 shows in 7 NFs

More information on the World Challenge programme is available [here](#).

In relation to the Youth Olympic Games 2026, the President also updated the Board on the African Confederation of Equestrian Sports (ACES) FEI Solidarity programme, and the interest of many NFs to receive Talent Identification sessions over 2023-2024, namely: Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Eswatini, Zambia, Zimbabwe (South Zone); Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Lebanon, Tunisia (North Zone); and Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mauritius and Senegal (French speaking).

The President further reported on the continued support provided to Ukraine through Athlete training camps and support for the National Federation staff expenses, providing an update on the status of the FEI Solidarity Relief Fund for Ukraine and highlighting the important contribution of the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF). He also referred to FEI Solidarity Emergency Fund and the financial aid distributed to equestrian clubs in the wake of the devastating earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria, and the floods in New Zealand.

ALLOCATIONS OF FEI NAMED EVENTS

The Board allocated the following FEI Championships:

2024

- FEI Jumping European Championships for Veterans, San Giovanni (ITA), 1st half of August 2024
- FEI Jumping South American Championships U25, Juniors, Pre-Juniors and Children, Quito (ECU), 15-20 October 2024
- FEI Eventing European Championship for Ponies, Westerstede (GER), 1-4 August 2024

2025

- FEI Jumping European Championship for Young Riders, Juniors and Children, Zduchovice (CZE), 14-20 July 2025

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- FEI Jumping European Championship for Ponies, Le Mans (FRA), end July 2025
- FEI Jumping European Championship for Veterans, San Giovanni (ITA), 1st half of August 2025
- FEI Dressage European Championship U25 and Young Riders, Kronberg (GER), 10-13 July 2025
- FEI Dressage European Championship for Juniors and Children, Le Mans (FRA), July-August 2025
- FEI Dressage European Championship for Ponies, Kronenberg (NED), July-August 2025
- FEI Eventing European Championship for Young Riders and Juniors, Strzegom (POL), 7-10 August 2025
- FEI Eventing European Championship for Ponies, Kronenberg (NED), July-August 2025
- FEI Driving World Championship for Pairs, Beekbergen (NED), 20-24 or 27-31 August 2025
- FEI Driving World Championship for Ponies Four-in-Hand /Pairs/Singles, Haras du Pin (FRA), September 2025
- FEI Driving World Championship for Young Horses, Haras du Pin (FRA), September 2025
- FEI Endurance World Championship for Young Riders and Juniors, Buftea (ROU), 5-6 September 2025
- FEI Endurance World Championship for Young Horses, Jullianges (FRA), 2 August 2025

2025-2027

- FEI WBFSH Jumping World Breeding Championship for Young Horses, Lanaken (BEL), 2nd half of September 2025-27
- FEI WBFSH Dressage World Breeding Championship for Young Horses, Verden (GER), 6-10 August 2025-27
- FEI WBFSH Eventing World Breeding Championship for Young Horses, Le Lion d'Angers (FRA), 16-19 October 2025-27

RULES REVISION 2023

The Board reviewed the proposed changes to FEI Rules and Regulations which will be circulated to the NFs and Stakeholders on 28 June 2023.

These included:

- FEI Statutes;
- Internal Regulations of the FEI;
- FEI General Regulations;
- Dressage Rules;
- Endurance Rules (Full Revision);
- Driving & Para Driving Rules;
- Anti-Doping Rules for Human Athletes.

The Board was also updated on the rules and rule modifications, which will be impacted by the implementation of the Key Event Requirements, which were presented in detail at the FEI Sports Forum 2023 (details are available [here](#)).

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In accordance with the [FEI Rules Revision Process Policy](#), the key dates after the Board meeting are as follows:

- **28 June 2023:** The FEI provides National Federations and Stakeholders with the first Draft of the proposed Rules changes.
- **16 August 2023:** National Federations and Stakeholders are given seven weeks to review the first Draft and the proposed amendments laid down in this first Draft. They make comments and/or propose any changes in relation to the amendments referenced in the first Draft only.
- **24 October 2023:** Final Draft of the proposed Rules changes is provided to National Federations and Stakeholders.
- **20 November 2023:** Rules Session at FEI General Assembly.
- **21 November 2023:** Voting of Rules at the General Assembly.

As per the [Periodical Rules Revision Policy](#) only the Endurance Rules are being fully reviewed in 2023.

FEI DISCIPLINES UPDATE & RESOLUTIONS

Jumping

The Board approved the rules for the 2024 season of the newly created Longines League of Nations (LLN).

The rules cover:

- Qualification of teams;
- Declaration of teams;
- LLN competition at qualifying events;
- LLN standings and qualification for the LLN Final;
- LLN Final competition and the LLN Final;
- Special bonuses.

The LLN competition format was finalised and unanimously approved by the FEI Jumping Committee at its recent meeting held on 30 and 31 May. Additional information on this topic is available in the [update dated 31 May](#).

The bid process (Qualifiers and Final) for the LLN seasons 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027 began on 22 May 2023 with the publication of the detailed Bid Guide and the Application Form. Both documents are available on the [FEI Bidding Platform](#). The process is open to all Organisers. Bids must be submitted via the FEI Bidding Platform by 23 June 2023.

The finalised rules have been published [here](#).

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The Board also approved the Rolex Grand Slam Rules modification proposal as well as the updates to the FEI Jumping World Cup™ 2023/24 rules.

All the rules will be published [here](#).

FEI Driving World Cup™ Rules 2023/24

The Board approved the proposed modifications to the FEI Driving World Cup™ for the 2023/24 season.

The main modifications concerned the allocation of the legs (Art. 2.12 and following); drive-off for competition 1 (Art. 5.2); and whips (Art 8.10).

FEI Driving Youth Cup 2024

The Board approved the creation of the FEI Driving Youth Cup 2024. The new series has been established to encourage the involvement and progress of young Driving athletes in the sport. Unlike the existing regional Championships, it will be held annually and will be open to athletes globally. At least three test events will be organised in 2024 alongside standard FEI events. The series proper will begin in 2025.

Both sets of rules will be published [here](#).

Veterinary

The Board heard an update on the ongoing Research and Development studies, which include:

- **Correlation between footing and forces in a horse's limb**, conducted by Professor Lars Roepstorff from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU).
- **Evaluation of programs for oral cavity control at equestrian events** – internal study by FEI Veterinary Department.
- **Development of a saliva based method for in-competition testing.** The objective is to develop a non-invasive method to sample horses during Endurance Rides focusing on micro-dosed heart rate lowering substances such as beta blockers. This is a collaboration between the FEI Central Laboratory and the FEI Veterinary Department
- **Pharmacokinetic studies of cannabidiol (CBD) and cannabidiolic acid (CBDA) after normal administration and simulated feed/bedding contamination**, conducted by Carl Ekstrand (SLU) and Matilda Salomonsson from the Swedish Veterinary Institute.

Information on planned studies approved by the FEI Veterinary Committee was also provided.

The Board approved the proposed changes to the FEI Equine Prohibited Substances List (EPSL).

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The List review process is carried out on an annual basis and revisions are made in response to scientific advances and information available regarding the use of substances in horses.

The proposed changes approved by the FEI Board will now be presented to National Federations for their feedback. The confirmed changes will then be published [here](#) by 1 October 2023 and will be effective as of 1 January 2024.

*For more information on the EPSL review process, click [here](#).
(Updated on 12 June 2023)*

PARIS 2024 OLYMPIC GAMES

The Board heard an update on preparations for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

The Board approved Annex F List of Breed (Studbook) to the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games. This modification is done following the addition of Thoroughbreds to the WBFSH list of breeds in order to line up the Olympic breeds with the officially recognised breeds. This information is used on entry and start lists at the Olympic Games.

The Board also approved the appointment of the following Officials:
Eventing Assistant Technical Delegate: Gaston Bileitczuk (FRA)
Dressage FEI Delegate: Vincenzo Truppa (ITA)
Dressage Chief Steward: Dan Chapman (GBR)

The updated Regulations have been published [here](#).

PARIS 2024 PARALYMPIC GAMES

The Board approved the introduction of a Judges Supervisory Panel (JSP) for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. The JSP for the Para Dressage at the Paralympic Games will be composed of a panel of two members, who would only be tasked to implement the 6% Rule, based on a unanimous decision by the Panel with the aim to ensure fairness in judging.

The implementation of a JSP will fit within the number of International Technical Officials (ITOs) allocated for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

Further to the Board's approval, a simulation will be run at the FEI Para Dressage European Championship to be held in Riesenbeck (GER) in September 2023.

The Board approved the list of ITOs to officiate at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games which will be announced shortly.

The updated Regulations, which will be voted at the FEI General Assembly in November 2023, and the list of ITOs for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games will be published [here](#).

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CONTINENTAL AND REGIONAL GAMES

The Board heard a short update on various Continental and Regional Games.

The Board was informed of the following Events that will take place in 2023-2028:

- XXIV Central American & Caribbean Games (ODECABE), Santo Domingo (DOM), Dressage: 23-30 June 2023; Eventing: 24-26 June 2023; Jumping: 1-5 July 2023.
- XIX Asian Games, Hangzhou (CHN) - Tonglu County, Yaolin Town – Jumping, Dressage, Eventing; 23 September – 8 October 2023.
- XIX Pan-American Games, Santiago (CHI), (Jumping, Dressage, Eventing), 20 October - 5 November 2023;
- XX Asian Games, Aichi & Nagoya (JPN), 19 September – 1 October 2026;

DAKAR 2026 YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES

The fourth Summer Youth Olympic Games (YOG) will take place in Dakar (SEN) from 31 October to 13 November 2026.

As was the case at the previous YOG editions, the FEI will propose Jumping as the equestrian discipline with a quota of 30 athletes.

The equestrian competitions will take place at a newly constructed facility in proximity to the Dakar Cluster and the Youth Village.

Education programmes for the staff of the Senegalese Equestrian Federation (Fédération Sénégalaise des Sports Equestres) and Officials are being put in place with the help of FEI Solidarity. The education effort is being developed in order to leave a post Youth Olympic Games legacy in the country and the region.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has set the following timeline for the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games programme review:

- July – August 2023: IOC-IF consultation to review the disciplines, events and athlete quota;
- September 2023: Finalisation of IF discipline, event and athlete quota proposals;
- Q4 2023/Q1 2024: Olympic Programme Commission (OPC) meeting to review the IF discipline, event and athlete quota proposals and form recommendations for the IOC Executive Board (EB);
- Q4 2023/Q1 2024: IOC EB meeting to finalise the review of the disciplines, events and athlete quota for Dakar 2026.

The Board approved the proposed way forward for the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games.

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MEDICAL COMMITTEE

The Board heard a brief overview on the activities of the FEI Medical Committee, including an update on the recent Concussion Conference held in the Netherlands, and the Committee's efforts to be a global leader in athlete safety and help drive standards for safety equipment. They have created a working group to look at equestrian helmets, and have included a broad spectrum of members, such as academics, athletes, helmet standards specialists, manufacturers and development experts, as well as representatives from the FEI Eventing Risk Management Group and other sports.