



KONJENIŠKA ZVEZA SLOVENIJE FEDERATION EQUESTRE SLOVENIE

1000 Ljubljana, Celovška 25, Slovenija

Ljubljana, 1.3.2017

Re: CSI/CSIO Requirements – NF Slovenia

Dear Mr. Roche, dear FEI Jumping Committee members!

On behalf of Equestrian Federation of Slovenia (in further text NF Slovenia), I would like to respond to the email, received on 20.12.2016 about harmonization of CSI/CSIO Requirements worldwide.

The proposed harmonization is based on Entry Fee system, currently used in North America. We see it as completely inappropriate to use in Europe, since it makes attendance on CSI shows much more expensive for the riders, which we believe will have below explained effect.

One of the most important goals of NF Slovenia is to increase the popularization of equestrian sport in Slovenia, to get more people interested in riding, active riders as well as spectators and fans. Wider base of riders in riding schools leads to wider pool of competitors, which means larger possibility to get few top riders, who will again as role models for youth have an effect on the popularization. This model shapes a circle that widens with each cycle.

As we see it, the only way to begin this cycle is to bring equestrian sport closer to the people, make it affordable at least up to certain level.

We believe the FEI shares this strategy to popularize equestrian sport worldwide and as a result get more riders registered at the FEI each year and more shows organized all over the world with larger attendance. Only in this spirit, we can attract more spectators and sponsors and consequently get wider media coverage, which, as discussed in length on FEI GA in Tokyo, is the only way for equestrian sport to remain in the Olympic Games.

We are afraid that proposed changes of Entry Fee system, if accepted, will have counter effect on the number of FEI registered riders and horses, since the proposed system makes CSI attendance much more expensive. The number of starts on the shows in Europe will drop, which will inevitably lead to less shows organized. Consequently, the interest of the public and media, that we all worked so hard to gain, will again decrease. Further negative consequences will be felt in the field of equestrian industry and breeding.

Lesser number of riders who will compete internationally, has a further counter effect on a development of equestrian sport in Slovenia. Our NF receives about 25% of its funds from

the state. The amount of the funds we can raise from the state is based on the number of NOC classified athletes. NOC classification can only be gained with results achieved on international shows. With lower number of riders that attend international shows, there is lower possibility for them to reach the classification criteria and with less classified athletes, the Federation gets less state funds, that every year enable the development of equestrian sport in Slovenia.

In 2016, we had 89 riders registered at the FEI for jumping. Should the proposal be accepted, we are afraid that even with the most optimistic view, we can only expect maximum of 20 riders to attend CSI shows in future.

At the moment there are total of 755 CSI shows on the FEI Calendar for 2017. 531 of them are organized in Europe, 128 in America, 59 in Asia, 19 in Oceania and 18 in Africa, which means more than 70% of all jumping shows will be organized in Europe.

Further more Europe has always been, is, and we can safely assume will continue to be the cradle of equestrian sport. Majority of sport, industry and breeding is based in Europe.

Given all above written facts, we believe that if FEI feels it is time for harmonization of Entry Fee system, which we are not against, proposal for harmonization should be based on Entry Fee system that is currently in use in Europe. Frankly, taking into consideration all the facts, we can not understand the reasoning behind the proposal based on American Entry Fee system. If anything, given all the numbers and tradition of the sport, we feel it should be the other way around.

Having pointed out the consequences this proposal, if accepted, will have on the sport not only in Europe and Slovenia, but in general, we hope FEI Jumping Committee will reconsider its proposal and in cooperation with EEF put forward new proposal, that will be acceptable for Europe as well as America and other parts of the world.

Yours sincerely,

Jožef Klavdij Novak
President
NF Slovenia

