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FEI™ UPDATE

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION

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EQUINE HERPES VIRUS (EHV-1)

A message from FEI Veterinary Director Göran Åkerström

Dear friends, dear colleagues,

The recent outbreak of the neurological form of the Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1 neurological form) in Europe has tragically resulted in the death of a number of horses and there are many still being treated for this very aggressive strain of the virus. One death is one too many, and we must do everything in our power to stop the spread of this terrible virus.

When the FEI was first notified on 20 February, we set out to minimise transmission of EHV-1 by tracing and blocking all in-contact horses, but as the severity and the geographical spread of the outbreak became apparent, we took tougher measures and shut down all international events across all disciplines in mainland Europe for four weeks up until 28 March.

On 12 March, that lockdown of international events was extended to 11 April and the FEI has urged all member National Federations to follow suit with their national competitions and training events.

These were not decisions that we took lightly, and we are extremely grateful for all the support we have received from the community, especially as we are all aware of the ramifications this extended shutdown means for our sport, our members and stakeholders. The willingness of the community to accept and even welcome the prolonged lockdown is testimony to our collective dedication to the safety and welfare of our horses.

To date, we have blocked almost 4,000 horses on the FEI Database, meaning they must be kept in isolation, and a negative PCR test will need to be provided prior to them being unblocked and cleared for competition.

While EHV-1 is endemic in many countries, the current outbreak of the neurological form is the worst we have seen in decades, and it has clearly tested our biosecurity processes and our resilience. Nobody wants to see an outbreak like this ever again. And we will continue to monitor EHV-1 outbreaks through the FEI Veterinary Epidemiology Working Group, composed of world-leading EHV specialists, members of the FEI Veterinary team and supported by the Chair of the FEI Veterinary Committee. Communication is crucial when dealing with an outbreak, and we will keep the community informed on the Working Group findings with a weekly report and recommendations published on the dedicated FEI **EHV-1 hub** where we have been and continue to post all our latest updates and information.

It is also very important for us to receive all the correct information for our risk assessments and decisions. For this we need your support. By informing us of positive EHV-1 test results and sick horses you contribute to our combined efforts to ensure a safe return to competition on 12 April 2021. Please send us this information, including the positive PCR result to veterinary@fei.org. I guarantee you and your horse anonymity.

We understand that the current situation is creating a lot of uncertainty and worry within our community. The current outbreak is still a problem and we must all be part of the solution. Each of our actions will reduce the severity and the duration of this outbreak and make possible a safe restart of competition.

There will be a comprehensive and fully transparent investigation into every aspect of this outbreak and the way it has been handled, and we will be putting in place enhanced protocols to allow a safe return to play once the virus is under control.

The response to this crisis has clearly reflected the true community spirit for which the equestrian world is renowned, and we have seen members of the community rally together and provide incredible levels of support. We must continue working together to keep our horses safe.

Yours sincerely,



Göran Åkerström, D.V.M.
FEI Veterinary Director

Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1) - online hub

For all the latest on the Equine Herpes Virus outbreak, visit our dedicated **EHV-1 hub**. Here, you will find all the latest figures as well as links to all the related biosecurity protocols and measures for EHV-1; a detailed **Timeline** which is updated on a daily basis with any new developments and information; a thorough **Q&A** section to answer all your questions; and a page dedicated to all the **Updates** provided to the community since the outbreak began.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY - 8 MARCH 2021

This year, International Women's Day attracted a lot of attention from the sporting world, with many organisations and associations promoting and raising awareness around gender equality and specifically women's rights and access to sport, both on the field of play and in the top management decision-making position.

Awareness is one of the building blocks when it comes to fostering gender equality and inclusion, so below you will find some of the interesting activations the FEI led and took part in. Simply click on the titles below to discover some of the discussions, debates, thoughts and programmes linked to International Women's Day 2021.

FEMpowerment: Alongside an all-female panel, FEI President and UN International Gender Champion Ingmar De Vos spoke at the ITTF conference on the subject of gender equality in sport, the status quo and the steps we need to take as a global sporting community to forge a new future without gender bias and discrimination.

If she can do it, so can I: An inspired blog post from FEI Secretary General and APSO President Sabrina Ibáñez.

Here's to you... A great video for our fans featuring a cross selection of female equestrians.

Celebrating our equestrian stars on International Women's Day: Equestrian sport is the only major sport where women and men compete against each other on an equal basis. We thought it a good day to ask some of equestrian's biggest names to tell us which women have inspired them over the course of their career..

Fearless Girls: The FEI welcomed the launch of the FISE Fearless Girls project on 8 March dedicated to empowering female leaders in the Italian equestrian landscape.

FEI CHAMPIONSHIPS & FEI-NAMED EVENTS

Allocations

On Tuesday 16 March, the FEI Board allocated the following FEI Championships & FEI-Named Events. A detailed press release is available **here**.

- **FEI Jumping Ponies Trophy Final 2021**
The Board approved the allocation of this Final to Mechelen (BEL) from 26 – 30 December 2021.
- **FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ Youth Final 2021**
The Board approved the allocation of this Final to Kronenberg (NED), outdoor, from 23 to 26 September 2021.
- **FEI Eventing European Championship 2021**
The Board approved the allocation of the FEI Eventing European Championship 2021 to Avenches (SUI) from 23 to 26 September, subject to the FEI appointing a technical advisor for the Championships.*
- **FEI Eventing European Championship 2023**
The Board approved the allocation of the FEI Eventing European Championship 2023

to Haras du Pin (FRA) in August (exact dates yet to be confirmed).

*See below in Eventing Rules Update regarding Covid-19 Exemption: MERs derogation to participate at the FEI Eventing European Championship 2021.

Get your tickets for the ECCO FEI World Championships 2022 in Herning (DEN)

It's time to get your tickets for one of the highlights of the equestrian calendar 2022 – the ECCO FEI World Championships in Jumping, Dressage, Para Dressage and Vaulting which will take place from 6 – 14 August 2022 in Herning, Denmark.

Tickets are selling out fast, make sure you secure your ticket to this unique event.

Buy your ticket(s)

JUMPING

Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ Series Update

On Wednesday 16 March, the FEI Board approved the updates to the Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ Series Rules 2021 – which you will find [here](#). As per the revised Rules only one Division 1 team will be relegated at the end of the 2021 season and one team will be promoted from the EEF Series; accordingly, in 2022 there will again be 10 teams in Division 1. The article on team wild cards has also been updated.

In addition, we would also like to confirm that following consultation with all the relevant parties, the FEI has also decided to prolong the existing Host Agreements for another year (2022).

Furthermore, the FEI Board has also approved to guarantee the financial contribution to the OCs of the Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ Qualifiers and Longines EEF Series Final for 2021 even if they have to organise behind closed doors or with limited spectators.

The FEI is working on a concept for 2023 and onwards and will share this very soon with National Federations and all relevant stakeholders.

Rules Update

On Wednesday 16 March, the FEI Board approved the updates to the FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ Youth Series Rules 2021 and the FEI Jumping World Cup™ Series Rules 2021/2022.

For all FEI Jumping Rules, click [here](#).

DRESSAGE

Rules Update

On Wednesday 16 March, the FEI Board approved the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Rules 2021-2022 – North American League (NAL), and the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Rules 2021-2022 – Pacific League (PAL).

For all FEI Dressage Rules, click [here](#).

PARA DRESSAGE

FEI speaks to the Para Dressage Podcast about Tokyo 2020, Classification, the future and that special bond

The Para Dressage Podcast was launched in August 2020 and is hosted by the FEI's Para Dressage correspondent, Rob Howell.

Every few weeks Rob talks to a member of the Para Dressage community, from Paralympic champions to upcoming stars of the sport.

In this latest episode, Rob puts listeners' questions to the some of the FEI's key Para Equestrian spokespersons and pioneers: FEI Secretary General and President of APSO Sabrina Ibáñez; Director for Para Dressage Bettina De Rham; and, Chair of the FEI Para Equestrian Committee Amanda Bond.

You can subscribe to The Para Dressage podcast on Spotify, Apple and all the usual podcast platforms, or download the episodes at [Theparadressagepodcast.libsyn.com](https://theparadressagepodcast.libsyn.com).

EVENTING

Online Risk Management and NSO Seminar, 23-24 January 2021 Update

The report and annexes of the 2021 Online Eventing Risk Management and NSO Seminar have been published and are now available under [Eventing/Risk Management/Seminars 2021-2022](#).

Rules Update

On Wednesday 16 March, the following **Emergency Board Resolution** was approved:

Covid-19 Exemption: MERs derogation to participate at the FEI Eventing European Championship 2021

Following the allocation by the FEI Board of the 2021 FEI European Championships to Avenches (SUI) from 23 to 26 September, an MER derogation to participate in these Championships was also approved as an emergency Board resolution related to a Covid-19 exemption. Taking into account the number of Events cancelled because of Covid-19 and the travel restrictions that have limited the number of opportunities to compete at long format competitions in 2020, the Board approved a derogation to prolong the period for the Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MERs) for the FEI Eventing European Championships 2021 starting on 1 January 2019 instead of 2020 with specific requirements described on the following [webpage](#).

For all FEI Eventing Rules, click [here](#).

ENDURANCE

Rules Update

On Wednesday 16 March, the following **Emergency Board Resolution** was approved:

Covid-19 Exemption: Independent Governance Advisors (IGAs)

Due to the fact that 4* Officials do not exist anymore according to the new Endurance Rules, the low number of Officials of Level 4 and given the urgent need to appoint (IGAs) for Championships, the FEI Board, following the recommendation of the Endurance Committee, has approved the following modification to Article 856.2.3:

"Independent Governance Advisors must at a minimum be qualified as FEI ~~4~~ Officials and have ten years' active experience officiating at ~~that level~~ FEI competitions."*

For all FEI Endurance Rules, click [here](#).

VAULTING

Rules Update

On Wednesday 16 March, the following **Emergency Board Resolution** was approved:

Covid-19 Exemption: CVIOs – Nations Teams

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Organisers of a CVIO might not be able to schedule Squad or Pas-de-Deux competitions. The FEI Board approved a resolution whereby CVIOs with nation's team competitions with competitive units composed of three individuals will exceptionally be permitted.

In addition, and further to the Emergency Board Resolution on 18 November 2020, Article 701.7 shall read as follows for the 2021 Calendar season (as there will be Squads and PDD competitions at the 2021 FEI World Vaulting Championships, for seniors and Juniors):

"Organisers should not be obliged to organise Squad competitions. ~~The FEI recommends not to host Squad competitions at any level and in any category.~~"

For all FEI Vaulting Rules, click here.

FEI DIRECTORY

Updates to the FEI Database

Monthly summary on the key changes/updates in the FEI Database with regards to the FEI's member National Federations. All details can be found on the FEI Database by clicking on each NF's name listed below:

KOR - KOREA EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION

Nam Shin PARK (KOR) has been elected as President of the NF.

NOR - NORGES RYTERFORBUND

The NF has a new main phone number: 0047 21 02 90 90, their fax number has been cancelled.

SYR - FEDERATION ARABE SYRIENNE DES SPORTS EQUESTRES

The NF has a new general email address: nf-syr@hotmail.com.

ZAM - ZAMBIA NATIONAL EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION

Ms Samantha SMIT (ZAM) has been elected as Secretary General of the NF.

ZIM - ZIMBABWE EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION

Michael RAMBO (ZIM) has been elected as President of the NF.

FEI UPDATE
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