

**PROPOSALS FOR RULES CHANGES OF  
PARIS 2024 PARALYMPIC REGULATIONS**

24 October 2023

Dear National Federations,

Please find below a summary of the proposed changes to the Paris 2024 Paralympic Regulations together with the corresponding explanations, the comments received as well as the reasoning for accepting or not accepting each proposal.

In the following document you will find 1 section as follows:

**A. [Proposed Rules changes to be voted at the FEI General Assembly 2023](#)**

In addition, the International Paralympic Committee had published the Accreditation deadline date (3 May 2024) and the final sports Entries (5 August 2024) dates, so these were added to the Rules, where previously they were marked TBC.

Sincerely,



Ronan Murphy,

Para Dressage Director

**A. PROPOSED RULES CHANGES TO BE VOTED AT THE FEI GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023**

<b>Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)</b>
FEI
<b>Article Number – Article Name</b>
<b>Article 610.1 JUDGES</b>
<b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>
<p>The Para Equestrian Technical Committee (PETC) had discussed the introduction of a Judges Supervisory Panel (JSP) during the full Rules Revision process in 2022. However, with the Board approval of 21-22 June 2022, this topic was delayed to the Rules Revision process of 2023 to allow for full testing and simulation of the proposed change. The FEI Board approved the proposal put forward in the FEI Board meeting 6-7 June 2023.</p> <p>Within Para Dressage globally, the % margins between top nations and competitors have become increasingly small, with medals being won or lost on fractions of a percentage. The PETC reviewed if there was a role for a JSP for Para Dressage at the Paralympic Games.</p> <p>Based on data analysis on the differences in scores between Judges at recent major championships, the FEI Para Equestrian Committee identified the need to add a JSP to ensure fairness in Judging at the Paralympic Games. It is proposed the JSP would be composed of a panel of two members who would only be tasked to implement a 6% Rule, based on a unanimous decision by the Panel.</p> <p>A simulation will be run at CH-EU-PED Riesenbeck.</p>
<b>Proposed Wording on 28June 2023</b>
<p><b>1. Judges</b></p> <p><b><u>Ground jury</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seven (7) Ground Jury (President and Members) and one (1) travelling reserve</li> </ul> <p><b><u>JUDGES SUPERVISORY PANEL (JSP)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>The purpose of the JSP is to ensure fair judging.</u></li> <li><u>The FEI Board is responsible for the appointment of members of the JSP further to consultation with the Dressage Committee.</u></li> <li><u>A JSP Member who is not a FEI Dressage Judge shall have the status, rights and responsibilities of an FEI Official and is accordingly bound by the relevant provision of the FEI Rules and Regulations.</u></li> <li><u>The JSP appointed for an FEI Event should consist of two (2) members appointed by the FEI. All JSP members must be independent and experienced, well respected and diplomatic, adhere to the Codex, have integrity and communication skills. There can be a maximum of one (1) JSP member per NF on the same panel.</u></li> <li><u>If a judge's final score for a Horse/Athlete combination varies (above or below) by six (6) % or more from the average of the scores of the other Judges for the same combination, the JSP may, by unanimous decision, change that particular score to be the same as the next closest score. The JSP must inform the judges immediately after the Competition which scores have been changed. A signed form with the correction will be added to the normal sheets</u></li> </ul>

and made available to the Athletes, and given to the Judge, whose score has been changed.

- At events, the JSP should have a good view of the entire arena and be provided with computer screens showing the Judges' marks instantly.
- At events, the Organiser must ensure that the JSP members have:
  - A direct and clear sight of the arena;
  - A screen with the live video feed of the whole performance of each competitor from the same camera, the recommended position being at the field of play level. Such video should be replayed live during the performance.

## Comments Received by 16 August 2023

### IRL

The IRL NF support this proposal but ask if there will be an opportunity for feedback to be provided to NFs on the Trials carried out. We pose the following questions and other NFs may have further queries:

1. Does this work if the score is higher as well as lower than the average?
2. What research has been done to see how this might have changed medals to date?
3. Should we also be looking into why there is such a difference? Judges will see different things from certain markers but should not be wildly different.

### FEI Feedback

The responses to the questions raised by IRL:

1. The JSP would be able to make a change if the difference in score is 6% higher or lower than the average of the other Judges scores.
2. Two detailed reports were made of the scores in Para Dressage to verify the numbers of tests that would be involved in a score change that was comparable to the 5% Rule in Dressage. Of the tests which would have had a change in the final score, there were no changes to medals. Pilot simulations were also held at the CHs Herning and Riesenbeck to test the proposal.
3. Continual education is a priority, and the Judges dashboard helps to see where further education is required. The implementation of a Judges Advisory Group and updates to the Para Dressage education system are also in place to help prioritise the education of Judges. Differences in scores are to be expected in a Judged sport, and are not always faults, as may be the case where one Judge has a better angle than others. The JSP is suggested to put in place to ensure fairness of Judging, and if the JSP notice a mistake has been made they can decide to fix that score.

The PETC wanted to clarify that the 6% is the difference from the average of the other Judges score and not from any other single Judge.

The simulation at Riesenbeck had worked very well, with the report from the pilot JSP showing that only one score would have been changed out of 120 Para Grand Prix A and B tests and 37 Freestyle tests. As such, the PETC will be going forward with the above proposal for the Paralympic Games.

## Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2023

### 2. Judges

#### Ground jury

- Seven (7) Ground Jury (President and Members) and one (1) travelling reserve

#### JUDGES SUPERVISORY PANEL (JSP)

- The purpose of the JSP is to ensure fair judging.

- The FEI Board is responsible for the appointment of members of the JSP further to consultation with the Para Equestrian Dressage Committee.
- A JSP Member who is not a FEI Para Dressage Judge shall have the status, rights and responsibilities of an FEI Official and is accordingly bound by the relevant provision of the FEI Rules and Regulations.
- The JSP appointed for the Paralympic Games ~~an FEI Event~~ should consist of two (2) members appointed by the FEI. All JSP members must be independent and experienced, well respected and diplomatic, adhere to the Codex, have integrity and communication skills. There can be a maximum of one (1) JSP member per NF on the same panel.
- If a judge's final score for a Horse/Athlete combination varies (above or below) by six (6) % or more from the average of the scores of the other Judges for the same combination, the JSP may, by unanimous decision, change that particular score to be the same as the next closest score. The JSP must inform the judges immediately after the Competition which scores have been changed. A signed form with the correction will be added to the normal sheets and made available to the Athletes, and given to the Judge, whose score has been changed.
- At events, the JSP should have a good view of the entire arena and be provided with computer screens showing the Judges' marks instantly.
- At the Paralympic Games events, the Organiser must ensure that the JSP members have:
  - A direct and clear sight of the arena;
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