

Committee name	FEI Para Equestrian Technical Committee
Date	24 October 2023
Chair	Amanda Bond

Committee Report

Pt.	Subject																												
1	<p>Athlete and Horse Registrations: It has been a strong year for Para Equestrian sport with significant growth in the number of athletes and horses participating. See table 1 below:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2022</th> <th>2023</th> <th>% difference</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="4">Number of Registered Athletes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Para Dressage</td> <td>329</td> <td>413</td> <td>25.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Para Driving</td> <td>4</td> <td>32</td> <td>700%</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">Number of Registered Horses</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Para Dressage</td> <td>400</td> <td>528</td> <td>32.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Para Driving</td> <td>4</td> <td>39</td> <td>875%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Table 1: Athlete and Horse Registrations 2023 versus 2022</p> <p>This demonstrates a continued positive trend in participation in post pandemic times, with both horses and athletes surpassing the previous record highs shown in 2019.</p>		2022	2023	% difference	Number of Registered Athletes				Para Dressage	329	413	25.5%	Para Driving	4	32	700%	Number of Registered Horses				Para Dressage	400	528	32.0%	Para Driving	4	39	875%
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2	<p>Shows: It has also been a record-breaking year with the number of Shows, with 41 in Para Dressage. The introduction of the new sports structure, with a progressive development through the star levels has resulted in far more opportunities for the lower-level classes being scheduled. 11 x 1* events, 30 x 2* events and 39 x 3* events were scheduled in 2023. Whilst the numbers in these classes remains low in most cases, it builds a solid foundation for the future.</p> <p>Shows were hosted by 22 different national federations, representing 5 of the FEI regional groups. This compares to 17 national federations in the previous year.</p> <p>Para Driving held two shows in the year.</p>																												
3	<p>European Championships, Riesenbeck 2023</p> <p>A very successful championships was organised by Riesenbeck, Germany in September. 61 athletes contested the five grades, with 13 teams forward for the team medals. Combined with Dressage, these championships were a truly integrated affair; a wonderful demonstration of inclusivity in our sport.</p>																												

4	<p>Judges Supervisory Panel Project</p> <p>With the Board approving the inclusion of a Judges Supervisory Panel for the Paralympic Games in Paris 2024, the European Championships provided an ideal opportunity to undertake a final test of the system prior to the Games. The panel made up of Marco Orsini (GER) and Kjell Myhre (NOR) monitored all tests against the six % difference rule (where a score is 6% different to the average of all other judges). Unlike Dressage where 5% difference is applied, 6% was deemed appropriate after a review of all data across the five different grades in para.</p> <p>With an excellent judging panel in place for the Europeans, just one score was identified as affected by the rule as part of this test.</p>
5	<p>World Challenge</p> <p>The FEI Para Dressage World Challenge was launched for 2023, but unfortunately it has been a slow start. Just one nation has applied to host the Challenge. Uruguay will host their event starting in November. The PETC encourage National Federations to apply for these Events.</p>
6	<p>Classification</p> <p>It has been an extremely busy year for the Classifiers, with 177 new requests for classification so far this year. This is exciting as many of these will be new athletes for the future. However, this has put pressure on the Classification Working Group who review all of these applications and discussions are underway on how to make the system sustainable going forward as the discipline grows.</p> <p>A successful Classifiers Seminar was held in May, with the main focus on recruitment, training and retention of Classifiers in the future.</p> <p>The pandemic delayed Classification research project was finally completed in 2023. Follow up meetings were held with the Head of Research at the IPC Research Centre for Physical Impairment to review the findings and plan for the future. Going forward, an expert consultant is being sought to review the current system and look for areas of improvement in light of the findings of the research project.</p> <p>We thank the Classification Working Group for all of their hard work this year.</p>

7	<p>Test Working Group</p> <p>The Test Working Group commenced their work to review all tests and write new ones where needed for introduction in 2025. The group will be looking at the progression of tests through the different star levels, as well as a full review of current championship level tests.</p> <p>A survey to National Federations was undertaken to gather feedback from stakeholders on areas for improvement with the tests.</p>
8	<p>Education</p> <p>45 separate courses have been scheduled in 2023, covering judges, stewards and classifiers for para dressage. This included a successful Level 4 / 5* Judges Seminar held online in January.</p> <p>2023 has also seen the introduction of a Judges Advisory Group for Para Dressage.</p>
9	<p>With our thanks</p> <p>It has been another busy year in Para, and all signs are very positive for continued development in the future. None of this would be possible without the very hard-working members of the Technical Committee and working groups who dedicate their time to developing our sport.</p> <p>We say a sad farewell to Deputy Chair, Michel Assouline who has served four years on the committee. We shall miss his deep experience and insight and thank him for his great contribution.</p> <p>Finally, we have been delighted this year to welcome our new Director, Ronan Murphy who joined the HQ team in July. Having already made a strong, enthusiastic start, we are excited to see his ongoing contribution to our sport. He leads a wonderful team who are passionate to do their best for Para Equestrian sport. Thank you.</p>