

19 November 2019, Moscow (RUS)

Committee name	FEI Para Equestrian Technical Committee
Date	9 October 2019
Chair	Amanda Bond

Committee Report	
Pt.	Subject
1	<p>Sport Demographics</p> <p>Athlete numbers have grown again in 2019, to 336, a further 10% increase in athletes registered and active within the discipline of para dressage. Horse registrations have grown to 398, showing 8% growth during the year compared to 2018. By the end of the season there will have been a total of 30 events, the same number as 2018.</p> <p>Para Driving has returned to 2017 figures with 13 athletes and 14 horses registered. The growth shown in 2018 was not sustained. This is probably due to the fact that there was no World Para Driving Championship held this year.</p>
2	<p>Para Equestrian Forum</p> <p>A successful two day Forum dedicated to para equestrian sport was held in Lamotte-Beuvron (FRA) in May 2019, kindly hosted by the Fédération Française d'Équitation (FFE). This third Forum of its kind included Tokyo 2020 preparations, classification research, athlete welfare and safeguarding, coaching, compensating aids, para driving and an officials update. Over 70 delegates attended from 23 national federations, representing many of the stakeholder groups, including Officials, Judges, Athletes, Coaches, Organisers, Classifiers, FEI Committee, National Federation and National Paralympic Committee representatives. All contributed to discussions through workshops focussing on the sport's future development. Themes included a review of the competition structure, developing new participants and encouraging youth. Outcomes from the Forum will form the basis of the discipline's new four year plan.</p>
	<p>Classification</p> <p>2.1 Classifier's Seminar: Organised in conjunction with the Para Forum in May, 19 classifiers attended the bi-annual seminar and covered a range of topics including proposed rule changes, observation assessment, protests, misrepresentation and research.</p> <p>2.2 Research Project: Now in its second year, the classification research project run by the University of Central Lancashire and Hartpury University continues. It aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the effect of different physical impairment types on performance in dressage, which in turn will inform recommendations for an evidence-based, sport-specific Classification system for para dressage. The researchers presented a session titled 'A rapid review of performance determinants in para dressage' at the VISTA conference in Amsterdam in September, which was well received by the audience of sports scientists and researchers, specialist in athletes with impairments. A research reference group, including a variety of stakeholders meets regularly with the researchers to provide valuable sport input. The initial project is scheduled to last for three years, but further work will need to be done by the Classification Working Group and the Technical Committee on how the research can be applied practically.</p>

	<p>Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games Preparations continue for the 2020 Paralympic Games, with appointed Technical Delegate Hanneke Gerritsen having undertaken three pre-visits, one during the test event. Careful consideration has been given to the timetabling and infrastructure to ensure the best conditions for athletes, as well as all other stakeholders. Natasha Baker (GBR) attended as a para athlete representative. In general the venue is excellent, with good accessibility. To assist with education of dealing with the hot and humid climate, sessions were held at the Para Forum, as well as the Sports Forum in April.</p>
	<p>Education The committee have supported the Education Department with the forthcoming roll out of the Competency Evaluation System for Officials. A bank of questions have been prepared for the online assessments that will be hosted on the FEI Campus.</p> <p>Four Judges seminars have been held throughout the year in AUS, DEN, GBR and NED. A successful 5* Judge's seminar was held in conjunction with the European Championships in Rotterdam. Three Stewards courses have been held in JPN, CAN and GER.</p> <p>The Solidarity Department is working with the Para Coaches Working Group to finalise a coach education system for para. Very similar to Dressage, three levels will be available supported by comprehensive workbooks.</p>
	<p>Committee Business Huge thanks are offered to outgoing committee member Hope Hand (USA) who has supported the work of the committee for the last four years.</p>
<p>FORWARD PLANNING</p>	
	<p>Para Four Year Plan Following the Para Forum, the Committee has commenced the drafting of a four year plan, designed to outline the areas of development and growth for the discipline. It also aims to identify key performance measures and the associated actions / resources that need to be put in place to achieve success. Main areas of focus for the plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competition Structure – looking at areas including the CPEDI1*-4* structure, Championships and Games programmes, the annual calendar, youth competition and the possibility of an FEI Para Dressage World Cup™. • Classification – reviewing the classification research and how this shapes the system going forward, handling of vision impairment and intellectual impairment. • Development (Solidarity) – how to develop new nations and attract more activity in regions outside of Europe. • Education of Officials – including the Officials pathway, possibility for fast-track of dressage officials, Classifier development and introduction of a national course, developments in judging, use of the Dashboard and how to promote para sport. • Stakeholder Engagement – looking at how best to engage with stakeholders and the introduction of a Judges and Trainers joint seminar.