

13 November 2024, Abu Dhabi (UAE)

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| Committee name | FEI Para Equestrian Technical Committee |
| Date | 15 October 2024 |
| Chair | Amanda Bond |

| Committee Report | |
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| Pt. | Subject |
| | <p>Paralympic Games Paris 2024</p> <p>This year saw a highly successful Paralympic Games in Paris. The venue at the Palace of Versailles provided the most stunning backdrop for the highest level of sport our discipline has experienced. 77 athletes travelled to the Games, and with a second withdrawal occurring prior to commencement of the competition 76 of the 78 quota slots were filled. 30 nations were represented in the Games, compared to 27 in Tokyo 2020. This was a record number of participating nations in the history of Paralympic Equestrian sport. 16 Nations challenged the team medals in a strongly contested event seeing Team USA winning the gold medal; a historic win breaking team GBR's dominance in the Games in all previous editions. Team USA's success continued in the individual medals, resulting in them topping the medal table with 7 medals. In total, eight nations went home with medals, showing the continued breadth of talent across the sport.</p> |
| 1 | <p>Despite being a temporary venue, it provided good facilities for our athletes to prepare and compete. Stinna Kaastrup (DEN), a multi-medalled Paralympian and FEI accessibility consultant, visited the venue on several occasion prior to the Games to ensure it was fully accessible to athletes, support personnel, media, and spectators and in compliance with the principles outlined in the FEI Accessibility Handbook for Event Organisers.</p> <p>Visitors to the Games exceeded expectations, with over 55,000 tickets being sold, averaging around 14,000 per session. Interest in our discipline increased again compared to the previous Paralympic Games, with an 83% increase in social media posts, generating 123.2m impressions (+9%), 55.7m video views (+526%) and 2.5m engagements (+73%).</p> <p>The organisers should be commended for providing a fantastic platform on which our athletes excelled.</p> |

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| 2 | <p>Judges Supervisory Panel</p> <p>With the Board approving the inclusion of a Judges Supervisory Panel for the Paralympic Games in Paris for the first time and following a successful trial at the European Championships the previous year, Marco Orsini (GER) and Kjell Myhre (NOR) were appointed to this important task.</p> <p>They monitored all tests against the six % difference rule (where a score is 6% different to the average of all other judges). They changed a number of scores which resulted in changes to placings, but none that affected medals. The exercise has given very valuable insight that will be embedded in to the future judge's education programme.</p> |
| 3 | <p>Athlete and Horse Registrations:</p> <p>After the bumper year in 2023, boosted by being the Paralympic qualification year, athlete and horse registrations were down in 2024.</p> <p>361 athletes were registered for para dressage (showing a 16% decrease versus previous year) and 11 for para driving (66% decrease).</p> <p>464 horses were registered for para dressage (showing a 12% decrease versus previous year) and 11 for para driving (69% decrease).</p> <p>This shows there is a continued need to further promote and develop the discipline to attract new athletes to the sport. With 42 nations now represented on the Master Classification List, it shows the potential, however works still needs to be done to attract athletes in to competition.</p> |
| 4 | <p>Shows:</p> <p>There were 36 shows held in para dressage during the year. The introduction of the new sports structure, with a progressive development through the star levels has continued to show benefit with continued opportunities for the lower-level classes being scheduled. 10 x 1* events, 24 x 2* events and 34 x 3* events were scheduled in 2024.</p> <p>Shows were hosted by 19 different national federations, compared to 22 the previous year.</p> <p>There were no Para Driving events in the year.</p> |

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| 5 | <p>Development of Championships:</p> <p>The decrease in show, athlete and horse numbers in the year, compared to 2023 which was a Paralympic qualification year shows again the cyclical trend seen over a number of cycles. The benefit of nations qualifying and preparing for championships drives participation. This is particularly true in para sport that relies on government funding to make participation possible, and championship medal opportunities being a trigger for government funding in many countries. As such, the committee continues to look for opportunities to host major championships and games for the discipline.</p> <p>This is why we are very grateful to the THA NF for including para dressage in their upcoming FEI Asian Championships in Pattaya in November 2025. Preparations are well underway and the Committee Chair recently visited to support planning of this inaugural event.</p> |
| 6 | <p>Classification</p> <p>As always, it has been a busy year for the Classifiers, with 75 new requests for classification so far this year.</p> <p>Two successful online Classifier Seminars were held in May, and September this year with the main focus on the IPC Classification Code Review, Classifier recruitment, training and retention of Classifiers in the future; Para Driving Classification. A third seminar will take place in November.</p> |
| 7 | <p>Para Equestrian Forum</p> <p>The committee is delighted to announce the plans in place for the next Para Equestrian Forum in February 2025. With thanks to the GBR National Federation, the Forum will be held at the Belfry Hotel near Birmingham, UK on February 25-26 2025</p> <p>Maximising on the opportunity to bring the community together, an in-person para classifiers seminar would run 23-24 February prior to the forum, alongside an in-person Level 4 Judges Seminar.</p> <p>The Forum will concentrate on strategy for Para Dressage, specifically with topics on the Para Dressage Tests, Para Equestrian Classification system review, Intentional Misrepresentation and the updates in the IPC Classification Code Review. A detailed Agenda will be published in due time, and the registrations will open early December.</p> |

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| 8 | <p>Education</p> <p>31 separate courses have been scheduled in 2024, covering judges, stewards and classifiers for Para Dressage. This included a successful Level 4 Judges Seminar held online in October.</p> |
| 9 | <p>With our thanks</p> <p>This year’s hugely successful Paralympic Games was the culmination of years of planning and development of the sport undertaken by a hard-working volunteer Technical Committee, supported by a number of dedicated working groups.</p> <p>This year we say a sad farewell to Committee Member, Joyce van Rooijen-Heutink (NED) who has served four years on the committee. We thank her for her great contribution.</p> <p>Finally, thank you to our discipline Director, Ronan Murphy who leads a wonderful team who are passionate to do their best for Para Equestrian sport.</p> <p>Thank you all.</p> |