

13 November 2024, Abu Dhabi UAE

Committee name	EVENTING Committee Report
Date	2024
Chair	David O'Connor

Committee Report

Pt.	Subject
	REPORT OF THE FEI EVENTING COMMITTEE 2024
	<p>PARIS OLYMPIC GAMES – EVENTING</p> <p>The major event for Equestrian and Eventing this year was the Olympic Games in Paris delivered over and beyond all expectations. The incredible venue in the Parc de Versailles and the amazing Cross-country course (created and imagined by Pierre Le Goupil) provided the best promotion and images obtained for the sport ever. The Medal distribution between 3 continents (Europe, North America and Asia) was exceptional and for the Japanese team to win the bronze further to a substitution and use of the reserve rider confirmed the Eventing format.</p> <p>All participating nations should be commended on the preparation of their riders and horses and understanding of the importance of the challenge to show good pictures, which was achieved.</p> <p>The Organisation committee, all volunteers and Officials who made the Cross country happen in complicated conditions due to the weather and conditions in a heritage location need to be thanked and congratulated with special thanks to the Paul-Jacques Tanvez (Normandy drainage who prepared the Cross-Country track), Marcin Konarski FEI Technical Delegate for coordinating the competition and of course Pierre Le Goupil the artist Course Designer!</p>
1.	<p>COMMITTEE MEETINGS</p> <p>The Eventing Committee met six times in 2024 by Video conference led by the Chair David O'Connor with the participation of all Committee members and the Eventing Department. The in-person meeting was organized at FEI HQ in June to discuss Eventing 2024 Rules proposals, Education and Risk Management related matters. Other Eventing related meetings organised on-line in 2024 included the 2024 Olympic Games, Risk Management, Officials and Education, Championships and Nations Cup, etc. The main points discussed during the 2024 Eventing Committee meetings had been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olympic Games: Regular updates were provided on the progress of the preparation of the Olympic Games, by the EC Member and Course Designer Pierre Le Goupil (FRA) • Risk Management: Measures and recommendations of the Online Eventing Seminar had been reviewed including items for discussion such as Tired and exhausted Horses, Retroactive sanctions, Future of the Sport, Risk Management Data and Risk Management Studies and the fitting, development and recommendations for use of Frangible Devices. • 2024 Eventing rules proposals: See separate Annex to GA.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education: see below • Eventing Documents supporting Rules: The Cross-Country Guide for Officials, Memorandum and Equipment & Tack FAQ had been updated on a regular basis during the year to allow to circulate best practice for Course Design.
<p>2.</p>	<p>2024 RULES REVISION: (refer to GA Annex – Eventing Rules)</p> <p>All suggestions for modifications received from the National Federations (NFs) and Stakeholders for the 2024 Eventing rules were reviewed according to the FEI rules policy at several meetings.</p> <p>Please refer to the GA annex for proposed changes in line with policy in place.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>FEI EVENTING RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME</p> <p>Ongoing since 2000, the FEI Eventing Risk Management Programme now includes 24 years of data collection with a consistent improvement in data quality. The data from each competition includes fence description forms, fall reports and fence analysis was collected by the Eventing Department. The amount of data allowed significant data mining and extractions of invaluable information for the Risk Management Steering Group such as queries linked to Athlete and Horse qualification and the discipline’s technical issues. This data also allowed the Eventing Committee to make informed recommendations on policy making and technical improvements of Cross Country course concepts.</p> <p>The plan to have the data collection go from manual collection process to an online system had been delayed to 2025. It should enable Officials to enter data digitally to be uploaded to the FEI database and increase data accuracy and facilitate the work for Officials and FEI Headquarters to process the paperwork into the database.</p> <p>For 2024, the estimated number of competitions had slightly decreased by 2.5% from 813 in 2023 to 793 (figures at 27 September 2024). This decrease is partly due to cancellations further to difficult weather conditions and raise of organising costs.</p> <p>EVENTING RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY AND ACTION PLAN in place since February 2011 and updated in February 2014.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The ongoing primary commitment of the FEI Eventing Committee is to ensure that the FEI Risk Management Policy and Action plan is endorsed and implemented by all involved in the Sport with the support and dynamic involvement of National Federations, National Safety Officers, Athletes, Officials, Organisers, Owners and Sponsors. The FEI Eventing Risk management Steering group was established in 2016 to continuously investigate and review risk management related matters in Eventing and make recommendations to the Eventing Committee in order to minimise risk and optimise safety. The main focus is to reduce horse falls, and particularly rotational falls as well monitoring and overseeing the overall Eventing Risk Management Program. The RM program has allowed the discipline of Eventing to improve, raise awareness and consistency of its implementation world-wide. Course Design of Cross country is the major focus in regard to rider and horse safety.

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2. The **FEI Eventing Online Seminar and NSO Seminar** was organised online in January 2024. A total of 280 participants from 36 countries attended. All sessions of the Online Seminar were recorded and the replay available on the FEI website. The main points of discussion of the Seminar included the proposed modifications for the competition format of the 2028 Olympic Games, an update on the preparation of the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, Social licence to operate, 2024 important Rule changes, Fitness and Training of Horses/ensuring Athletes train for the level entered, Risk Management Data and Risk Management Studies including the EquiRatings HFI, flag penalties, etc.

The Online Eventing Seminar was followed by a NSO Seminar where 83 National Safety Officers (NSOs) and NF representatives from 31 countries participated. NSOs gave presentations on Risk Management projects and Eventing related topics in their respective countries.

3. An **FEI Eventing Open Forum and NSO Seminar** would be organised in January 2025 in Lausanne (SUI). The subjects would include Eventing Future, LA 2028 Olympic Format, 2026 Eventing Rules Revision, Education of Officials, Risk Management Data and Studies, Training and Fitness of Horses, 2025 Frangible Devices Update, etc.

4. **Horse Form Index (HFI)**

Continuous work in partnership with EquiRatings® supported the Eventing Committee/Department to implement the Horse Form Index (HFI) in the FEI Database in January 2022. This tool was currently available only for Athletes, Owners, National Federations to measure their horses' performance, track their progress and to enable more informed decisions prior to the competitions.

EVENTING RISK MANAGEMENT STATISTICS 2023-2024

Taking into account that the main focus of FEI Risk Management programme is to reduce horse falls, and particularly rotational falls, the below data shows a steady highly and encouraging decrease of falls:

- The **number of competitions** has slightly decreased by 2.5% in 2024 with 793 compared to 813 in 2023. The provisional data (30 June 2024) showed a total fall rate of 4.68% (430 falls for 9,193 starters). The decrease from 5.44% for 2023 could evolve as the remainder of the 2024 competitions were not yet entered in the Risk Management database.

- **Falls:** The total falls decreased in 2024 at all levels except 3 star which remains stable, the 5 star level fall rate had decreased from 14.04% in 2023 to 6.76% in 2024 which means **a reduction of 51%** (provisional data 30 June 2024) which is the lowest rate attained for the period 2014-2024 (2020 excluded due to Covid)

Horse falls have **decreased by 35%** from 1.40 % in 2016 to 0.91 % in 2024 (30 June 2024) with 0.10% rotational falls recorded. The percentage has decreased by 40% over the last 10 years from 0.20 % in 2014 to 0.10 % in 2024 (30 June 2024). Rotational falls have constantly been decreasing since 2013.

Out of 1,157 falls reported for 2023, 854 were cross country fence related falls (73.81%), 83 were cross country falls non fence related (7.17%), 137 in Jumping (11.84 %), 2 in Dressage (0.17%) and 81 in warm-up (7.00 %).

<p>4.</p>	<p>Eventing Risk Management Steering Group (RMSG)</p> <p>The RMSG Meeting, a subgroup for the Eventing Committee, met three times online in 2024.</p> <p>The following points had been discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Statistics and Horse falls per fence type• Review of Horse falls and serious accidents• Retrospective sanctions• EquiRatings® HFI and Venue Analysis• Cross Country Guide for Officials updates• Frangible Technologies• RMSG structure• Event review – standard of event• Eventing studies <p>The Risk Management Steering Group members included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Geoff Sinclair (AUS) (Chair)• Laurent Bousquet (FRA)• Stuart Buntine (GBR)• Jonathan Holling (USA)• Gert Naber (NED)• Dave Vos (USA)
<p>5.</p>	<p>EVENTING SERIES AND CHAMPIONSHIPS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. FEI EVENTING CHAMPIONSHIPS AND GAMESb. FEI EVENTING NATIONS CUPc. FEI EVENTING WORLD ATHLETES RANKING
	<p>A. FEI EVENTING CHAMPIONSHIPS</p> <p>FEI EVENTING EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS Junior, Young Rider and Pony:</p> <p>Both FEI Eventing European Championships for Junior (73 Athletes and 13 teams) & Young Rider (58 athletes and 11 teams) were held in Strzegom (POL) – 21-25 August 2024 were a great success.</p> <p>Team Results:</p> <p>Juniors: GOLD - GERMANY (GER)/ SILVER - IRELAND (IRL)/ BRONZE - GREAT BRITAIN (GBR)</p> <p>Young Riders: GOLD - GREAT BRITAIN (GBR)/ SILVER - FRANCE (FRA)/ BRONZE - GERMANY (GER)</p> <p>Equally successful was the FEI Eventing European Pony Championships (46 Athletes and 7 teams) which took place in Westerstede (GER) in August under difficult weather conditions.</p> <p>Pony Team Results: GOLD - FRANCE (FRA)/ SILVER - IRELAND (IRL)/ BRONZE - GREAT BRITAIN (GBR)</p>

	<p>FEI WBFSH Eventing World Championship for Young Horses, Le Lion (FRA) 2024</p> <p>The FEI WBFSH Eventing World Championship for Young Horses, a renowned Championship dedicated to 6- and 7-years old horses taking place in October, attracts a large number of competitors each year. This year, approximately 110 combinations from 25 nations and studbooks are expected to participate.</p> <p>B. FEI EVENTING NATIONS:</p> <p>The 2024 Nation's Cup Series had raised much interest this year. In the series seven out of the eight originally allocated legs took place as Chatsworth (GBR) was cancelled due to weather conditions. Montelibretti (ITA), Millstreet (IRL), Avenches (SUI), Strzegom (POL), Arville (BEL), Lignièrès (FRA), took place before the Final event of the Series at Boekelo (NED) in October.</p> <p>With 7 legs held, the sixth best results will be taken into account for the final classification. In total, fifteen teams competed in the 7 legs. Before the Final event, France, Germany and Great Britain are leading the standings - 15 Nations participated in the Nations Cup Series in total.</p> <p>C. FEI EVENTING WORLD ATHLETES RANKING FEI:</p> <p>Until May the 2024 FEI Eventing World Athlete Rankings overall classification was led by Oliver TOWNEND (GBR), in June, Ros CANTER (GBR) held pole-position for one month, and in July Tom MCEWEN (GBR) became world number one for the first time. British athletes continue to dominate, with each month between five and eight athletes securing positions within the top ten.</p> <p>At the beginning of October, the FEI Eventing World Athlete Rankings is led by Tom MCEWEN (GBR) with a total of 552 points. Second ranked is Ros CANTER (GBR) with 497 points, and third Tim PRICE with a total of 476 points.</p> <p>The FEI Eventing World Athlete Zone Rankings will be published at the end of the calendar year.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>EDUCATION OF OFFICIALS</p> <p>The new FEI Eventing Officials Education System effective as of 1 January 2023; offered Level 1 online certification for Judges, Technical Delegates and Stewards, whilst the Level 1 education for Course Designers remained in-person.</p> <p>The participation to the FEI HQ L4 course started in October 2023 and was completed in September 2024 by 36 Eventing Officials.</p> <p>An Eventing Education Working Group was created: with the goal to review the Education System document, and propose adjustments where applicable, based on experience and comments received. Their final input would be submitted to a review panel including Officials from all levels and different countries. This latter contribution would be discussed again within the EEWG before being presented to the EC in January 2025.</p> <p>The Education Programmes for Officials in Eventing had run in full speed in 2024:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Official Exchange Programme - twenty Officials had received support for travel in 2023 to officiate within the programme.

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	<p>b) The Course Calendar 2024 and the regular training courses for all four categories of Eventing Officials. Six in-person courses for Judges/TD/CD were able to take place, in FRA, ITA, NZL, POL, SUI, and USA, whilst the Stewards were able to join two in-person course, in NZL and POL. Three online sessions for maintenance had also been organised.</p> <p>c) One dedicated Course Designer workshop with examination took place in POL.</p> <p>The Overall Course Directors Conformity seminar ran in a hybrid format as well in 2024: the Overall directors attended in-person, whilst the other directors joined for 2 hours online. The session started with feedback on the new L1 certification, in-person course structure & format; the themes of in-person courses were also addressed.</p> <p>The 2025 course calendar had been published: 5 in-persons courses were planned for J/TD/CD in AUS, CAN, GBR, and POL (2), and 3 for Stewards in AUS, CAN and GBR.</p> <p>In addition, 2 Course Designer Workshops would also be included for 2024.</p>
7.	EVENTING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
	<p>The Equestrian Sport Educative Events (ESEE) program developed by the FEI Solidarity department was focused on Officials' Education and help developing NFs to grow and manage the FEI disciplines at a NATIONAL level in a sustainable manner had been very successful. It counts as a FEI level 1 course if Officials attend 3 of these courses.</p> <p>ESEEs should be organised until the end of the year in KEN.</p> <p>FEI Eventing World Challenge</p> <p>The first cycle of the new FEI Eventing World Challenge in 2023 which saw 9 countries COL (Latin America 1), NAM, ZAM, ZIM (Africa 3), HGK, IND(Asia 2), GUA, JAM (CAC 2), ROM (Europe 1) organise this hybrid competition.</p> <p>For 2024, 19 countries have applied to organise the FEI Eventing World Challenge, 12 of which will be hosting the Eventing Challenge for the first time (in bold):</p> <p>Africa: KEN, NAM, RSA, SWZ ZAM</p> <p>Central America & Caribbean : BAR, CRC, GUA, JAM, TTO</p> <p>Latin America: COL, MEX,</p> <p>Asia & Central Asia + Middle East: HKG, IND, KAZ, THA, TPE, UAE, UZB</p> <p>The enthusiasm and interest of countries of the Central American and Caribbean region as well as Asia and Central Asia for the series with respectively 3 and 5 new countries this year (in total 5 and 7) is super encouraging. This is extremely encouraging for the development of the discipline as these regions are for the most part new to Eventing and this clearly shows a growing interest.</p> <p>9 of these newly involved countries will be organising Category C (Dressage + Derby) only (in pink above), which is the first step for countries that are beginning in Eventing and the intent of this first Category.</p> <p>In terms of participation, 212 combinations competed in 2023.</p> <p>For 2024 after 15 competitions (1 Category = 1 Competition), 127 combinations have already taken part, consequently a considerable and promising increase is expected for this second year.</p> <p>8 countries have already organised this year: BAR, COL, CRC, IND, MEX, NAM, TTO, UAE - see breakdown of participants below</p>

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BAR		COL		CRC		IND		MEX		NAM		TTO		UAE		
#	##	#	##	#	##	#	##	#	##	#	##	#	##	#	##	
-	-	3	3	-	-	2	2	7	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	Cat A
-	-	16	12	-	-	4	4	13	13	3	1	-	-	7	6	Cat B
9	4	-	-	15	14	6	4	17	16	7	5	7	4	11	8	Cat C
9	4	19	15	15	14	12	10	37	36	10	7	7	4	18	14	Total

: number of entries
##: number of finishers