

Committee name	Medical Committee
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Chair	Dr Mark Hart

Committee Report	
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1. Medical coverage at Events

1.1 The "Guidelines for the medical coverage of events in compliance with article 109.10, GRs" were fully revised in order to provide more specific information to help Organising Committees plan their event's medical response. In particular, the following is now highlighted in the document:

- The different medical coverage needs at events depending on the time considered (arrival of the first horse until the first horse inspection; remainder of the event and until the last horse has departed; hours of non-riding activity (such as night time);
- The expertise required from the healthcare professionals attending the event depending of the time considered;
- Clarification that the medical coverage plan must include a procedure applying in case of a serious physical or mental incident or illness;
- Clarification that the medical coverage plan must include a field of play removal plan for injured athletes.

The revised document "*General medical coverage requirements for FEI events*" is published on the FEI website and will come into effect on 1 January 2024. The document's main requirements are reflected in KER 11, which will also be implemented starting 1 January 2024 as part of the new Key Event Requirements framework.

1.2 Practical medical coverage guidance for OCs will be issued by the Medical Committee in 2024.

1.3 The 2021 version of Eventing Annex D, which outlines the medical coverage requirements for this discipline, became mandatory on 1 January 2023.

2. NF Medical Advisor project

In an effort to enhance and support athlete safety, physical and mental health, the Medical Committee is now developing a National Federation Medical Advisor program in collaboration with the Solidarity department. This program aims to create an effective communication channel between NFs and FEI, and to support NFs (in particular small and medium sized NFs who are often short of staff and expertise to fulfil these important activities).

The NF Medical Advisor volunteer position would be filled by a registered medical practitioner in their country who is experienced in sports medicine. Their duties would include:

- Acting as a line of communication between the FEI and the NF in medical/health related matters such as athlete injury reporting and concussion education.
- Assist their NF's program and compliance on human anti-doping matters including education
- Assist in coordinating FEI event medical coverage in their country and develop an overview of existing relevant local medical resources and regulations.

In 2024 the educational program for NF Medical Advisors will be developed and a pilot phase will be initiated.

3. Personal safety equipment

In 2023, in coordination with the Eventing Risk Management Group, the Medical Committee gathered groups of experts in the fields of helmet and air vests safety standards and design, with the aim to contribute to increased performance levels.

3.1 Helmets

While continuous efforts must be made to reduce horse and athletes falls, measures are needed in parallel to reduce the risk of serious injury when falls do occur. When it comes to helmets, the existing helmet standards set minimum requirements that helmet manufacturers must meet to receive certification. Considering the differences between standards, this year the FEI Medical Committee decided to serve the equestrian community by setting up a working group to review helmet standards and find areas to improve their effectiveness in reducing serious injuries by reducing forces transmitted to the brain when falls occur. The working group is an international expert panel with various stakeholders including engineers, standards experts, medical doctors, helmet manufacturers, athletes and other equestrian disciplines (horse racing). Their action focused on:

- Evaluating the performance needs of helmets
- Assessing the existing standards against such needs (factoring in the constraints of helmet design such as size, weight, appearance).
- Sharing these findings, and engaging with industry and certifying bodies.

21 November 2023, Mexico City (MEX)

Following an initial in-person meeting and subsequent discussion, the working group reached the following position with respect to helmet standards:

- An additional testing measure should be added to the current testing protocols to better account for the linear and rotational forces that occur in equestrian falls.
- New limits of energy transmission levels to the brain should be set to reduce the severity of brain injuries in case of a fall.

The working group's conclusions will be communicated end 2023 to FEI stakeholders and shared within the helmet manufacturing and testing industry for feedback. As new materials and research become available the approach to helmets standards will be an evolving process, with finding an international testing standard for equestrian helmets as a possible future evolution.

3.2 Air vests

The Medical Committee is currently coordinating the creation of an expert task force on air vests safety and effectiveness.

4. Concussion

The development of concussion awareness and educational material was moved to 2024. The FEI concussion policy will also be reviewed at that time in the light of the conclusions of the 6th International Conference on Concussion in Sport, which were [released](#) in June 2023.

5. Mental health

In 2023 participants (riders and grooms) at the Badminton Horse Trials (CCI5*-L, Mya 2023) had direct access to on-site mental health and well-being support provided by mental health charity [Riders Minds](#). A well-being hub, with an on-site counsellor, was available for the duration of the event. This initiative was fully supported by the Medical Committee, who will elaborate in 2024 a detailed guidance for OCs on how to set up a mental health emergency plan for their event.

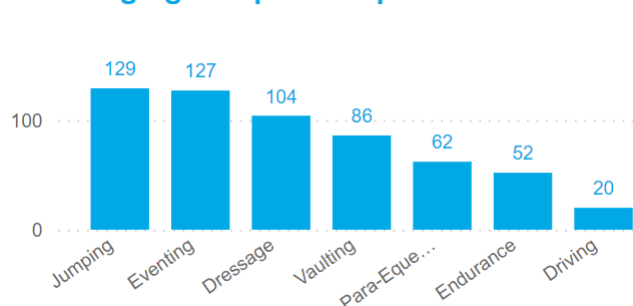
6. Human anti-doping program

6.1 Testing

In 2023 the athlete testing program focused on preparing for Paris 2024. The overall testing figures for the 1 January - 23 October 2023 are as follows:



Testing figures per discipline



6.2 Education

The human anti-doping education programme targeted a variety of stakeholders groups, including for example OCs, NFs, athletes, the Para Equestrian community and youth athletes, through [webinars](#) (5 in total), educational booths at Events (11 in total), a dedicated session on human anti-doping at the NFs Secretary General & Administrators Workshop in Lausanne, and other measures. All athletes in the FEI RTP/TP were requested to complete a human anti-doping education course.

A full report will be available on the FEI website after the completion of the 2023 human anti-doping program.

7. Medical Committee focus for 2024

In 2024 the Medical Committee will further develop the projects outlined in this document. In addition, a potential option for transitioning the current [online Person Injury Reporting system](#) into an injury surveillance program will be explored in order to start building a robust injury data pool.