

13 November 2022, Cape Town (RSA)

Committee name	Athletes Committee
Date	14 October 2022
Chair	Maria Gretzer (SWE)

Committee Report	
Pt.	Subject
1	INTRODUCTION
	<p>During 2022 the FEI Athletes have been represented in the different bodies of the FEI, including all Discipline Committees through their representatives, members of the FEI Athletes Committee.</p> <p>Members of the FEI Athletes Committee are the only members of FEI Standing Committees that are elected by their peers, and may serve on more than one Standing Committee at the same time.</p>
2	COMPETITIONS
	<p>In 2022 we have witnessed a return to a normal competition year. The previous development of the FEI HorseApp and horse health requirements allowed Horses and Athletes to confidently compete in a safe environment.</p> <p>World Championships for Seniors 2022 for the different Disciplines were very successful. The new concept of allowing venues to choose to host specific disciplines has revealed to be positive and well received by the equestrian community; as a consequence of it we have witnessed top class sport in the World Championships for Seniors 2022 in Herning (DEN) and Pratoni del Vivaro (ITA). The</p> <p>The Athletes Committee encourages the FEI to keep this open concept whereby World Championships for Seniors can be organised either in individual or combined Disciplines.</p> <p>Unfortunately the FEI World Endurance Championship 2022 had to be cancelled to preserve the safety of the Athletes and the welfare of the Horses, for the reasons communicated by the FEI. However, a new host for these important Championships will be selected in Capetown.</p>

3	<p>ELECTIONS</p> <p>2022 is a year of elections for the Athletes Representatives in all FEI Disciplines.</p> <p>I would like to underline once more the importance of the Athlete Committee within the FEI sport and governance organisation.</p> <p>The Athletes Representatives are elected for a period of 4 year and each Athlete Representative is also a full member of each FEI Discipline Technical Committee where the strategy and future of the Disciplines are discussed. Consequently, this position plays a really important and vital role providing a voice to each Discipline within the global FEI decision making process.</p> <p>A. CANDIDATES</p> <p>By 1 May 2022, deadline for submitting Candidacies, few candidacies were submitted as we can see below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - JUMPING: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athletes eligible to be a Candidate: 493 • Candidacies submitted: 2 - DRESSAGE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athletes eligible to be a Candidate: 302 • Candidacies submitted: 1 - PARA EQUESTRIAN: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athletes eligible to be a Candidate: 215 • Candidacies submitted: 2 - EVENTING: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athletes eligible to be a Candidate: 309 • Candidacies submitted: 1 - ENDURANCE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athletes eligible to be a Candidate: 359 • Candidacies submitted: 6 - DRIVING: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athletes eligible to be a Candidate: 552 • Candidacies submitted: 1 - VAULTING: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athletes eligible to be a Candidate: 329 • Candidacies submitted: 1
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B. VOTES

By the time that this Report is written (14 October 2022) there were very few votes cast, with a low participation total ratio of 4,32 % as follows (out of the 2751 Athletes with the right to vote):

- **JUMPING:**
 - Athletes eligible to vote: 549
 - Votes Cast: 47
 - Percentage of vote: 8,56%

- **DRESSAGE:**
 - Athletes eligible to vote: 342
 - Votes Cast: 9
 - Percentage of vote: 2,63%

- **PARA EQUESTRIAN:**
 - Athletes eligible to vote: 201
 - Votes Cast: 10
 - Percentage of vote: 4,98%

- **EVENTING:**
 - Athletes eligible to vote: 337
 - Votes Cast: 3
 - Percentage of vote: 0,89%

- **ENDURANCE:**
 - Athletes eligible to vote: 372
 - Votes Cast: 36
 - Percentage of vote: 9,68%

- **DRIVING:**
 - Athletes eligible to vote: 590
 - Votes Cast: 23
 - Percentage of vote: 3,90%

- **VAULTING:**
 - Athletes eligible to vote: 360
 - Votes Cast: 1
 - Percentage of vote: 0,28%

	<p>The above figures are quite low despite the fact the voting system has been simplified (a simple click on the FEI HorseApp) and multiple communications and promotion.</p> <p>Why I fully understand that Athletes are extremely busy and focus on their sport careers it really is important that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The voice of our Athletes is crucial in decisions and deliberations ; and - The election process might need to be reviewed by the FEI in the future in order to ensure a higher participation of Athletes.
4	MEETINGS WITH SPORT STAKEHOLDERS
	I participated in a number of Teleconferences with the International Olympic Committee on the role of Athletes in the sport world and with World Horse Welfare about the welfare of the horse.
5	CLOSING REMARKS
	<p>Once again, despite all the challenges faced this year, the Athletes community have been very supportive and courageous for which I am particularly grateful.</p> <p>I am confident that the Athletes Representatives will continue working hard in 2023 to represent the voice of the athletes' community and will play an active role in the discussions and decisions of the FEI.</p>