

13 November 2024, Abu Dhabi (UAE)

Committee name	Athletes' Committee
Date	13 November 2024
Chair	Jessica Kürten (IRL)

Committee Report	
Pt.	Subject
1	INTRODUCTION
	<p>In 2024, the elected Athletes' Representatives have taken on a significant role in the FEI's decision-making, consistently working to ensure that athletes' viewpoints are well-represented within the Technical Committees. I take this opportunity to thank them for their commitment and time in performing their role: Jumping, Rodrigo Pessoa (BRA); Dressage, Yvonne Sylvia Losos de Muñiz (DOM); Para Equestrian, Erin Orford (GBR); Eventing, Bettina Hoy (GER); Driving, Franz Schiltz (LUX); Endurance, Sabrina Arnold (GER); Vaulting, Lamber Leclezio (FRA).</p>
2	PARIS 2024
	<p>The FEI Equestrian competitions at the Paris 2024 Olympic & Paralympic Games in Versailles have been a resounding success, showcasing the sport's rich heritage and elevating its global profile. Set against the stunning backdrop of the historic Château de Versailles, the events provided a breath-taking stage that blended sport, culture, and history, capturing the attention of audiences worldwide. The meticulously organised competitions not only highlighted the remarkable skills of the world's top equestrians and horses but also underscored the importance of equestrian sports within the Olympic movement. The seamless collaboration between the FEI, athletes, athletes' crew, OCOG, and volunteers contributed to a flawless execution of the events, enhancing the viewing experience for spectators both onsite and around the globe. These competitions have played a crucial role in promoting equestrian sports, celebrating the harmony between rider and horse, and inspiring future generations of equestrians.</p> <p>At the same time the competitions were not without challenges, particularly concerning horse welfare. Acknowledging these challenges, the FEI is committed to proactively addressing these concerns. The FEI's dedication to improving these aspects underscores its ongoing commitment to the integrity of the sport and the welfare of its equine athletes, ensuring that equestrian sports continue to thrive on the world stage.</p> <p>The FEI Equine Welfare Strategy and its Action Plan will certainly help to address horse welfare issues with a clear vision to ensure a good life for FEI Horses complemented by our mission to be the guardians of horse welfare.</p>

3	FEI COMPETITIONS
	<p>In addition to the Paris 2024 Olympic & Paralympic Games, almost 5'000 FEI Competitions were organised in 2024.</p> <p>Among them I would like to particularly emphasise the Longines League of Nations, an exciting new Series that revamped the heir to historical team equestrian competitions and which has been proved to be a great success. I want to thank not only all Athletes for their support of this thrilled competition but everyone that has made it possible, including the National Federation, the Organisers and our long top Partner Longines.</p> <p>A particular word regarding youth is necessary. Youth are the future of our sport and we shall continue investing in them, educating them, allowing them to compete in a safety and secure environment. We shall ensure focused promotion of youth competitions as part of the overall FEI promotional activities.</p>
4	GROOMS
	<p>Athlete’s voice is also an important part of the Grooms Consultative Group, represented by Max Kühner. Made up of Grooms, Owners, Athletes, representatives of Organising Committees, Officials, Stewards and National Federations as well as representative of the International Grooms Association, the mission of the Group is to assist with the definition of a roadmap for the development of key structures for the Grooms community, including the creation of a Charter of rights and obligations for Grooms.</p>
5	CLOSING THOUGHTS
	<p>As we conclude the year 2024, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the entire equestrian community—athletes, organisers, officials, and all those who tirelessly support the sport. This year has brought its share of both challenges and triumphs, but together we have continued to advance equestrian sports, keeping the welfare of our horses and the growth of our athletes at the forefront.</p> <p>The FEI Athlete’s Committee remains committed to advocating for the needs and rights of all athletes, ensuring that the voice of the athlete is heard in every decision that shapes our future. The strides we have made in safety, welfare, and development are thanks to the dedication and collaboration of everyone involved, and I look forward to continuing this important work with renewed focus and passion.</p> <p>Thank you for your continued support.</p>