FEI HYBRID GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ANTWERP, BELGIUM
14-17 NOVEMBER 2021

Medical Committee Report
OVERVIEW

- Athlete Anti-Doping
- Covid-19 counter measures
- Athlete Safety & Welfare
- Medical Committee focus for 2022
- Online person injury reporting system update
Athlete Anti-Doping
ATHLETE TESTING IN 2021

Total samples collected: 217
(1 January-2 November)

• Increasing testing gradually towards pre-Covid-19 pandemic numbers (2019: 317 tests)

• Operational challenges:
  - In-comp: smaller testing sessions necessary
  - Out-of-comp: unsuccessful attempts
OUT OF COMPETITION TESTS

- 97 samples collected (2019: 161)
- Focus: pre-Olympic/Paralympic testing
IN COMPETITION TESTS

• 120 samples collected (2019: 156)
• Mix of pre-Olympic/Paralympic testing program and high profile FEI events testing
THERAPEUTIC USE EXEMPTIONS (TUEs)

• Since 1 Jan 2021: only “International-Level-Athletes” must obtain their TUE in advance from the FEI.

• What is an “International-Level-Athlete”? Rankings-based definition, see https://inside.fei.org/fei/cleansport/humans/tues.

• All other athletes to obtain TUEs from their NADO.
TUE APPLICATIONS IN 2021

- **# of TUEs**: 32
- **# of Approved TUEs**: 10
- **# of Rejected TUEs**: 1
- **# of Closed TUEs**: 1
- **# of pending TUEC approval**: 0
- **# of Not Needed TUEs**: 2

### Discipline Code vs. Number of TUEs

- Eventing: 11
- Jumping: 6
- Dressage: 5
- Para-Dressage: 5
- Para-Equestrian: 3
- Driving: 1
- Endurance: 1
THERAPEUTIC USE EXEMPTIONS (TUEs)

- Main substances in TUE applications: stimulants (ADHD) and glucocorticoids (steroids).

- IMPORTANT UPDATES:
  - Changes regarding glucocorticoids in the Prohibited List: intra-joint injections and any other injections have been added as prohibited routes of administration in-competition.
  
  - New: WADA is now publishing estimated washout periods times.
WADA PROHIBITED LIST 2022

NFs have a critical role in helping athletes avoid doping violations:

- Proactive education of your athletes about the Prohibited List & TUEs
- Direct your athletes to check their current treatments to see if they need a TUE under the 2022 List (coming into effect on 1 January).

https://inside.fei.org/fei/cleansport/humans/prohibited-list

www.GlobalDRO.com
ANTI-DOPING - WHAT’S NEW FOR 2022

• Increased testing program (planned: 510 tests)
• Structured FEI education program under the new, mandatory WADA Standards for Education (ISE)
• National Federations compliance with WADA Code/FEI Anti-Doping Rules for Human Athletes:
  - Conduct anti-doping education in coordination with the NADO
  - Compliant rules etc.
Covid-19
COVID-19 COUNTERMEASURES AT FEI EVENTS

- FEI Policy for Enhanced Competition Safety during the Covid-19 Pandemic still applies for all FEI events. Several updates, masks remain strongly recommended.

- Each OC to determine the measures applicable at their event based on
  - Applicable laws & policies
  - FEI recommendations

- Participants coming from abroad to also comply with requirements for entry in the country.
TOKYO OLYMPICS 2020 FEI COVID-19 COUNTERMEASURES

• FEI responsible for 350+ participants (staff, officials, volunteers)
• Activity plan restrictions, Covid-19 pre-departure testing, daily Covid testing and symptom reporting, venue compliance with masking, physical distancing
• Excellent equestrian venue compliance
• Three close contact notifications (all negative), one FEI official tested positive but no symptoms
• In-county testing results (Olympics and Para total of 1.4 million PCR tests with only 365 positives).
Athlete Safety & Welfare
PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR – REMINDER!

• Since 1 January 2021, wearing Protective Headgear is mandatory when riding on the show grounds (all disciplines) + Driving Athletes and Grooms in the Marathon phase.

• Sport rules apply for prize giving.

• Protective headgear = headgear complying with the FEI List of applicable international testing standards for Protective Headgear (published on inside.fei website, GRs & Statutes page).
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CONCUSSION IN SPORT

• FEI co-organiser/co-sponsor of the International Conference on Concussion in Sport.

• 4 years cycle conference, sets the official recognition and diagnosis tools used around the world for sport concussion (CRT, SCAT).

• The 6th edition of the Conference will take place in Amsterdam on 28-30 October 2022.

Visit the conference website: http://www.concussionconference.org/
DISCIPLINE-SPECIFIC MEDICAL COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS

• Eventing Annex D in effect as guideline 1 Jan 2021, mandatory 2023.
• NF feedback on Annex D will be needed in 2022.
• Expanded competition medical coverage guidelines for the other FEI disciplines will be proposed by the Medical Committee in 2022-2023.
Since implementation mid 2018, we notice a few “trends”, for example:

**Jumping**
- One third of the injuries submitted are head injuries/suspected concussions
- Falls mainly at obstacles (refusals, bad jumps); falls with horse; falls with athlete landing head first

**Driving**
- Almost half of the injuries are fractures (leg, knee, wrist)
- 4 suspected concussions; 8 overturned carriages; 8 reports for grooms

**Vaulting**
- Mainly sprains and fractures; few (2) concussions

**Endurance**
- One third of the injuries submitted are head injuries/suspected concussions

More statistical work is needed
ONLINE PERSON INJURY REPORTING SYSTEM UPDATE

- 205 automatic notifications were sent to NFs by the system in 2021
- These notifications enable rapid action from the NF (fitness to compete follow up, medical suspension by NF)
- Notifications are received by default by the Secretary General, possibility to indicate a preferred contact
- FEI office follows up with NF if the notification indicates a concussion. Concussed athletes must not compete again unless steps of return to completion were successfully followed.
MEDICAL COMMITTEE PLANS FOR 2022

• Medical coverage: update the existing mandatory guidelines and issue a handbook with practical guidance for OCs

• Run a pilot project for a “NF Medical Advisor” role to enhance communication and coordination between FEI/NFs/athletes

• Coordinate creation of a expert task force on safety and effectiveness of body protectors and air vests (in coordination with ERMG)

• Expand concussion awareness material

• Promote awareness and understanding on athlete mental health through education and facilitation with IOC, NFs and NOCs.
THANK YOU