

13 November 2022, Cape Town (RSA)

EQUESTRIAN COMMUNITY INTEGRITY UNIT REPORTEquestrian Community Integrity Unit – 2021-2022 Report

by Lord John Stevens

Chairman, Quest Global Ltd

Chairman, Equestrian Community Integrity Unit (ECIU)

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

In the past twelve months we have felt the welcome return of what resembles normality in our sport, where we can focus on competition, performance and inclusivity. A period of stability over the recent challenging years will now allow us to continue growing our sport across expanding regions.

This sense of stability comes as no surprise, owing to the consistency and dedication of personnel at the FEI delivering on a specific agenda with clear direction, we are able to celebrate consistent progress. Albeit requiring approval at this year's General Assembly, we look forward to another four years of leadership under Ingmar De Vos and his management team, continuing to drive forward the FEI as the benchmark for standards required at the International Federation (IF) level.

This was made evident in the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) fourth review of IF governance published in June of this year. The FEI scored in the top bracket alongside BWF, ITF, FIFA, UCI, World Athletics and World Rugby. The scope of the scoring system was vast and covered many aspects; Transparency, Integrity, Democracy, Development and Control Mechanisms. It is clear that by scoring in the top group the FEI are very much at the forefront of governance best practice.

At the ECIU, one area of our remit is to deploy a CCTV surveillance system to major championships within the FEI calendar. This year we attended the FEI World Championships in both Herning (DEN) and Pratoni (ITA) in addition to the Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup Final in Barcelona (ESP). Plans were in place to deploy the surveillance system to the World Championships for Endurance, however this will be postponed until a new host can be arranged.

We have seen a significant improvement in the quality of the footage we capture which has resulted in the provision of additional assistance at events. The system captures all activity within the stable area and brings a new level of security and peace of mind to athletes, grooms and owners. Regardless of the time of day, there is oversight of people, horses, equipment and belongings. All original footage is stored securely by the ECIU for twelve months after the event and is then destroyed.

The ECIU reporting hotline is a key tool in the battle against wrongdoing within our sport. Since its introduction in 2010, we have seen more and more IF's contract independent parties to monitor and manage Integrity Units. A critical element of transparency for any organisation is that there is an independent oversight body, and the FEI have been at the forefront of best practice since the creation of the ECIU.

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For the period of October 2021 to September 2022, we received eleven unique reports to the hotline. Reports are reviewed on a case-by-case basis with a large proportion filed and stored within our data management system, CLUE, whilst awaiting further intelligence to progress with an investigation. Assistance from the wider Equestrian community in coming forward with any information, whether deemed significant or not, greatly assists our investigations. Without the support of the Equestrian Community, we can only go so far as to ensure those responsible for their negative impact on our sport are held accountable.

The following data details how the ECIU records the information received through the hotline, and the graphs indicate the trends that have taken place within the Equestrian Community over the past five years. We can see that this year we received fewer reports than in the previous twelve-month cycle and the lowest total number since 2014/2015. We have seen an increase in new issues which are being reported through the hotline. These are recorded under the 'Other' category and include reports that are civil matters (such as horse sales) or disagreements with National Federations, which are not under the jurisdiction of the FEI. However, if incidents progress and specific matters reach the threshold, the FEI will take action where necessary.

Horse welfare concerns have increased slightly, and this could be due to successful reports made to the ECIU in recent years, where reports have led to Tribunal sanctions on individuals. Whilst these allegations continue to be below average for what we have seen over the past twelve years, we encourage continued identification and reporting of incidents which cause concern.

There were zero Misconduct allegations in the past twelve months compared to the previous twelve, which is a welcome change from having been the highest reported area since the existence of the reporting hotline.

Whilst the lower number of reports is welcomed as positive news, I would continue to urge any member of the Equestrian Community who has concerns about behaviours and practices of individuals to contact the ECIU. When reporting, your identity will remain anonymous if you so choose, as the welfare of the Equestrian Community, horse and human, is of the utmost importance.

The ECIU can be contacted through the hotline on +44 207 935 5822 or by email at report@equestrianintegrity.com

Data received from ECIU hotline

Table 1. Category break down and comparison of reports received by the ECIU between October 2020 to September 2021 and October 2021 to September 2022.

Category of Information	10/2021-09/2022	10/2020-09/2021
1. Conflict of Interest	0	1
2. Misconduct	0	5
3. Doping	1	0
4. Regulatory	1	2
5. Request for Information	2	1
6. Safeguarding	1	3
7. Horse Welfare	2	1
8. Other (e.g civil matters)	4	3
Annual Total	11	16

Table 2. This table shows the average annual total since the data was recorded in 2010 against the total reported for the twelve months between 10/2021-09/2022

	10/2021-09/2022	01/2010-09/2022
Average Annual Total vs 10/2021-09/2022	11	18.31

Fig 1-8. Trend of categories reported to the ECIU in the past four years



