

FEI MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Dear National Federations,

Subject to the FEI Affiliation Process (available [here](#)) and to the “Guidelines on Requirements for Applicant NFs to FEI Membership” (as approved by the FEI Bard on 17 November 2017 in Montevideo (URU)), we are pleased to provide you with the relevant reports regarding the membership application of 3 prospective National Federations, namely (by Regional Group order):

- Bahamas (BAH) – Regional Group IV
- Mongolia (MGL) – Regional Group VIII
- Ivory Coast (CIV) – Regional Group IX

As per Article 6.2 of the FEI Statutes, if the Board is satisfied that the applicant meets all requirements to become a member of the FEI, it will submit the application for decision to the next General Assembly.

The Board has already been informed about these membership applications at its in-person meeting on 19 to 21 June 2019 and at its teleconference on 15 October 2019.

A final decision about these applications will be taken by the Board during its in-person meeting on 16 November 2019 in Moscow (RUS).

Following this Board meeting the National Federations will be duly informed of the Board’s decision ahead of the final voting on the affiliation of these 3 National Federations on 19 November 2019.

Sincerely Yours,



Francisco P. Lima
FEI Director of Governance & Institutional Affairs

BAH NF REPORT**1. INTRODUCTION**

In 1978 the first National Federation was formed – BANEF (Bahamas National Equestrian Federation). BANEF was a member affiliate of FEI, and the Bahamas on several occasions fielded teams to compete at regional competitions. By the early 1990's, the principals of BANEF had either lost interest or moved on, and the organisation fell into dysfunction and lost its FEI membership status. The sport went into decline. A new organisation, BANHA (Bahamas National Horse Association) was formed but did not have FEI membership status and lasted only a few years. Several of the major riding schools closed their doors, and the number of participants in riding as a sport continued to dwindle. However in the past 10 years there has been a resurgence in the sport. Equestrian Bahamas (hereinafter BAH NF)) was formed in 2014 and recognised by the Ministry of Sports and Culture and by the Bahamas Olympic Committee(BOH) as the governing body for Equestrian Sport in The Bahamas. Since the formation of BAH NF in 2014 Equestrian Sport has grown in both participation and recognition, and the standards of riding and coaching have greatly improved. There are now 10 competitions per show season, with anywhere from 30-40 riders competing in each. Bahamian junior riders are also competing successfully in competitions in the US, Canada and Europe, in the disciplines of Endurance and Jumping.

In becoming an FEI affiliate BAH NF hopes to gain assistance with creating effective development pathways for riders, horses and local coaches, with particular emphasis on training, discipline-specific technical skills, improved coaching techniques, and rider-horse program development. BAH NF aspires to provide riders and coaches with broader regional and international competitive opportunities, and to learn how to support Bahamian riders abroad who may be approaching elite status.

2. AFFILIATION PROCESS

In 2018 BAH NF requested re-affiliation with the FEI and since then has actively provided all relevant documentation to demonstrate fulfilment of the FEI Guidelines on Requirements for Applicants NFs to FEI Membership as approved by the FEI Board in Montevideo (URU) in November 2017.

3. INSPECTION VISIT

As a consequence and as part of the last step of the FEI Membership Affiliation Process, an inspection visit by FEI Representatives was organised. Both FEI Vice President, Chair of Regional Group IV, and FEI Director of Governance & Institutional Affairs visited BAH NF from 15 to 17 September 2019 and met the Board of BAH NF and the Bahamian Olympic Committee.

During the visit the FEI Representatives had the chance not only to visit the current equestrian infrastructures but to confirm the fulfilment of the minimum requirements to get FEI affiliation as defined by the FEI Board in 2017. Relevant information is detailed below:

3.1. Structure

BAH NF is a legal entity under the Bahamian national law. Currently, BAH NF is seeking to obtain the recognition as a non-for profit organisation which is believed to help further developments in terms of, mainly, donations by third parties.

BAH NF is recognised by BOH as the sole governing body for FEI equestrian disciplines in The Bahamas. Moreover, the relationship of BAH NF with BOH is durable and robust and the affiliation to the FEI is believed to bring to BAH further support in both sport and financial terms.

The BAH NF Constitution is not only adapted to the reality of the equestrian sport in the country but it also satisfies the FEI standards by encompassing the FEI minimum requirements for a NF Constitution as defined by the FEI in 2018.

BAH NF management is steady for the last 5 years and have shown professionalism and enthusiasm in developing the equestrian sport in the country.

BAH NF Board has a good knowledge of FEI and is aware of the developments tools available throughout FEI Solidarity to develop the equestrian sport in the country in the near future.

3.2. Finances

BAH NF has provided with the audited accounts of the last 3 years (2016, 2017 and 2018) and will secure the payment of 4 FEI annual fees. In addition, written confirmation has been provided by Scotiabank confirming that BAH NF has been a customer of that bank since November 2015 and conducts its banking affairs in a satisfactory manner.

3.3. Sports

BAH NF is currently active mainly the discipline of Jumping. It counts with 53 members (both clubs and individuals). This number is expected to be doubled in the next year or two. Currently BAH NF organises a total of 9 shows a year (including the 4 shows for the Bahamas Interschool Equestrian League (see below)).

BAH NF has 2 public lesson barns in Nassau: Camperdown Equestrian Centre and Mariposa Stables. Only riders from these barns compete in equestrian events in Bahamas. In addition, there are 2 public lessons barns in _Grand Bahamas that are not members of BAH NF. However, FEI's affiliation may be a driven force for these barns to join BAH NF.

Equestrian events are divided into 5 categories: 1. Horse Shows run under the Equestrian Bahamas Rule Book for Hunt Seat Equitation and Jumper classes; 2. Horse Shows run under Equestrian Bahamas' Interschool Equestrian League Rules; 3. Guest Clinics; 4. Riding Certification Test Dates, and; 5. Social Events such as fundraisers and our End of Year Awards Ceremony.

In terms of education, BAH NF counts with 2 important initiatives, mainly:

- A. Rider Certification Programme:** The Equestrian Bahamas Rider Certification Programme is an education initiative designed to 1) Encourage riders to increase their education level in all areas of horsemanship, theoretical as well as practical, and 2) Provide best-practice guidelines for local trainers, to ensure a consistency of instruction across all riding schools in the country. The Rider Certification Programme consists of 8 levels of training and testing, designed around internationally-benchmarked standards in three elements: Stable Management, Flatwork/Dressage, and Over Fences work. Successful attainment of each level is determined through a testing format, both written and practical. Test dates are scheduled throughout the year and tests are administered/proctored by EB-approved trainers and other personnel, at member facilities. Certificates and saddle patches are awarded to test candidates who attain pass marks in all three elements at each level. Participation in the Certification programme is optional but encouraged. All riders are required to enter the testing process at Stage 1, no matter their riding level. Study guides for the beginner levels are available online at the Equestrian Bahamas website, and in hard copy from trainers. To date Equestrian Bahamas has awarded 24 successful Level 1 certifications and 17 at Level 2.
- B. Bahamas Interschool Equestrian League (BIEL).** Launched in conjunction with the Bahamas Ministry of Education, BIEL represents a competitive and educational pathway for junior equestrian athletes to compete in equestrian sport at the grassroots level during their primary and secondary years of education. In 2019 they organise 3 qualification and a final where a total of 50 students are benefiting from this program. Moreover, in 2019 a team has been invited to compete in USA in the Interschool Equestrian League.

3.4. Welfare

BOC is WADA compliant.

Regarding equine anti-doping, the Bahamas Anti-Doping Commission is currently doing the necessary due diligence to implement an Equine Anti-Doping programme in the country. Support from the FEI may be needed to put in place a feasible programme.

4. RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD

Based on the above evaluation it is recommended to the Board to submit BAH NF's membership affiliation for voting at the General Assembly on 19 November 2019.

MGL NF REPORT**1. INTRODUCTION**

Mongolia Federation for Traditional and Selective Equestrian Sports (MGL NF) became a member of the FEI in 1998. Unfortunately, it was excluded from the FEI since 2017 for failing to pay their annual membership dues. With the restructuring of MGL NF it has now expanded to include all aspects of equestrian sport. MGL NF is ready and financially sound to re-affiliate with the FEI, and to introduce FEI disciplines to an already strong population on horseback.

2. AFFILIATION PROCESS

In 2017 MGL NF requested re-affiliation with the FEI and since then has actively provided all relevant documentation to demonstrate fulfilment of the FEI Guidelines on Requirements for Applicants NFs to FEI Membership as approved by the FEI Board in Montevideo (URU) in November 2017.

3. INSPECTION VISIT

In consequence and as part of the last step of the FEI Membership Affiliation Process, an inspection visit by a FEI Representative, the Chair of Regional Group VIII, was organised from 9 to 12 September 2019,

The FEI Representative met the Board of MGL NF, the Mongolian Olympic Committee, and the Mongolian Ministry of Science, Education and Sports.

During the visit the FEI Representative had the chance to visit the current equestrian infrastructures and to confirm the fulfilment of the minimum requirements for re-affiliation to the FEI as defined by the FEI Board in 2017. Relevant information is detailed below:

3.1. Structure

MGL NF is recognised by the Mongolian Olympic Committee as the sole governing body for FEI equestrian disciplines in Mongolia. The Vice President / Treasurer of MTCESA (MGL NF) is also the wife of current 1st Vice President of the Mongolian Olympic Committee.

The Mongolian NF Statutes satisfies the FEI standards by encompassing the FEI minimum requirements for a NF Constitution as defined by the FEI in 2018.

Although this NF is under a new administration, the Board members show professionalism and has a genuine interest to develop the equestrian sport in the country.

MGL NF Board has requested assistance from the FEI Solidarity to further strengthen its national sport structure and to introduce new FEI disciplines in the near future.

3.2. Finances

MGL NF has provided the audited accounts of the last 3 years (2016, 2017 and 2018) and will secure the payment of 4 FEI annual fees. The treasurer's family belongs to Altai Holdings, which is the largest sponsor for Olympic sports in Mongolia.

3.3. Sports

MGL NF is only active in the discipline of Jumping. There is a National Championship which takes place in July every year, with other local shows taking place during late spring and early summer.

A new indoor equestrian center has been planned and will break ground next spring. In addition to jumping, MGL NF has also identified vaulting as a possible discipline suitable for the Mongolian youth.

MGL NF currently owns 120 horses kept in 2 camps. The majority of the horses are used for endurance racing and traditional equestrian sport, with the rest utilised for jumping.

3.4. Welfare

Horse racing and breeding is very popular in Mongolia. Two of the Board members are from this industry with the ability to provide veterinary care to the horses. A National Head Vet will be designated upon re-affiliation with the FEI. In addition, all of the NF horses are recorded by the NF, and managed by the National Sports Training Center.

4. RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD

Based on the above evaluation it is recommended to the Board to submit MGL NF's membership re-affiliation for voting at the FEI General Assembly on 19 November 2019.

CIV NF REPORT**1. INTRODUCTION – POLITICAL AND HORSE HISTORY**

Ivory Coast/Cote d'Ivoire became independent from France in 1960. The first President, Felix Houphouët-Boigny, remained in office until his death in 1993. By 1990 the population had nearly trebled (currently estimated 25 million in a nation between the size of Norway and Poland) and the once strongest economy in West Africa was rapidly collapsing. Civil unrest began in 1990 with two named Civil Wars between 2002 and 2011. Since 2012, under the Presidency of Alassane Ouattara (first elected 2010), Ivory Coast has begun to prosper again and regain its place as the world's largest exporter of Cocoa

Unlike its neighbours Ghana, Mali, Burkina Faso and Guinea, Ivory Coast has no real history with horses. All of its horses were originally imported; few are bred in the country. Horses are a status symbol and even in the least affluent neighbourhoods there are horses grazing on the roadside, which apparently are not used for any work, just the pleasure of having them as pets. For sports most are Barb Pony crosses (152 cm and below) similar to those in Senegal and Ethiopia. Most were imported from Burkina Faso and Mali but some from Sudan, Senegal and Nigeria. The larger horses are flown in from Europe or crossbreds with local stock. One intention is to breed with AI or import from Morocco.

Despite having no historical ties to horses, the people both local and expatriate seem to have a passion for and affinity with horses. The equestrian clubs visited are well supported by all ages, races, genders and levels of riders, plus many supporters.

2. APPLICATION TO FEI MEMBERSHIP PROCESS

The National Federation of Ivory Coast first began the process of seeking membership of the FEI in 2011 as The Federation Ivoirienne des Sports Equestre (FISE). FISE had recognition of the National Olympic Committee. However, FISE did not follow through their membership application with the FEI. Communication ceased in January 2012. In 2017 FISE organised its first democratic election, where all clubs could vote. Stephane Ouegnin was elected as President. The Ministry of Sport was minuted as witnessing the process. After a General Assembly of FISE in early 2018, the Assembly voted to change the name of FISE to FIE: Federation Ivoirienne d'Equitation (CIV NF).

Two FEI Representatives, the Chair of Regional Group IX and the Solidarity Development Officer, visited the country from 3 to 7 October 2019. During the visit, the FEI Representatives could confirm that CIV NF has the full support of the National Olympic Committee as the one and sole body recognized to effectively control equestrian sport in Ivory Coast.

CIV NF Board has as a priority to reactivate the FEI membership application process. CIV NF has actively provided all required documents to the FEI in a timely way. They have complied with all FEI "Guidelines on Requirements for Applicants NFs to FEI Membership" as approved by the FEI Board in November 2017.

3. INSPECTION VISIT MEETINGS AND CLUB VISITS

The FEI inspection visit was divided in 2: 1) Meetings with the Ministry of Sport, the National Institute of Youth and Sports, the President of the Modern Pentathlon Federation, the National Olympic Committee and the Board and members of CIV NF, and; 2) Visits to equestrian clubs and competitions.

During these visits and meetings the FEI Representatives could confirm that CIV NF fulfilled all requirements for FEI membership affiliation as per the documentation submitted to the FEI throughout the process.

4. STRUCTURE OF THE FEDERATION

CIV NF complies with FEI minimum governance standards. CIV NF President has gathered a strong, dedicated team to support the NF. Each committee member has a well-defined role. The intention is to broaden the base of support of Administration by including special "Commissions" to further improve their structures in their NF of: National Rules, a national calendar, an entry system, training of officials, disciplines, Veterinary issues and competitions.

5. FINANCE

CIV NF provided audited accounts to the FEI and confirmation from their bank that they conduct their banking affairs in a satisfactory manner. They are well prepared to pay the required four years in advance (2020 – 2023) should they be approved by the FEI General Assembly. There was no reason to believe that the financial security of CIV NF was in question.

6. SPORT

Currently, the CIV NF is mainly active in Jumping but they also have a national system of "distance riding" which is very popular and intend to encourage Vaulting. There are approximately 20 Public Clubs and "Private" stables in Ivory Coast with more than 100 members in total. The FEI Representatives visited two of the more popular Clubs, which were open to anyone who wished to join. They use the French Gallop System to grade and licence their athletes for competition. They organize "clinics" with overseas trainer/coaches to improve their local standards.

They organise about one Jumping show per month (.050 – 1.20 m) with 40 plus entries and some 6 – 8 "rides" (less than FEI * level). They recently sent 2 teams of athletes to Morocco to compete on lent horses in a "ride" there. Achieving FEI membership and the ability to compete in initially lower level competitions: Children's Classic and FEI Dressage/Jumping World Challenges will spur additional growth as well as more interest from their youth in their sport. As yet they have been very constrained from competing in regional nations. A major ambition is to achieve this.

7. WELFARE AND VETERINARY

The National Olympic Committee is WADA compliant. Equine anti-doping is not yet in place but CIV NF is aware that they will have to establish a structure for this as their level of participation increases.

There appears to be no recorded cases of African Horse Sickness or Equine Influenza there. All horses in sport are inoculated annually against Tetanus and Rabies. Concerns are great that they lack sufficient Bio-Security measures if they intend to encourage importation of more horses (semen) and movement of horses within the region. It is VERY important that FIE consult with their Veterinarians and their Ministry of Animal Resources as well as FEI and OIE to ensure that importation (of live animals and semen) is well controlled to avoid introduction of diseases.

8. THE FUTURE OF CIV NF

CIV NF has two plans in the pipeline. 1) is the pledge of the NIJS to give a venue for degree certification in Equestrian Sport, and; 2) the establishment of another larger, visited venue for the Poney Club du Golf. These initiatives show serious intention to invest in horse sport in Ivory Coast and the confidence that our sport will be secure and grow there and importantly, be of positive influence in the region.

9. RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD

Based on the compliance of the official requirements for applicants NFs to FEI Membership and the on-site evaluation of the FEI Representatives, it is recommended to the Board to be satisfied by the membership application of the CIV NF so that it may be voted on positively at the FEI General Assembly on 19 November 2019.