

23 November 2020

Committee name	FEI Para Equestrian Technical Committee
Date	16.10.2020
Chair	Amanda Bond

Committee Report	
Pt.	Subject
1	<p>Sport Demographics</p> <p>As for all disciplines, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the sporting calendar for para equestrian. Having had 35 dressage events scheduled in the calendar for 2020, unfortunately 21 were cancelled, leaving just 14 events this season. Of those, 11 occurred before the virus situation took hold. This was extremely unfortunate as 2020 would have been a record year for the number of events, compared to 30 events the previous year. There were unfortunately no para driving events this year.</p> <p>As a result of the pandemic disruption, we had just 289 para equestrian athletes registered in the year, compared to 349 the previous year. This shows a 17.2% decrease year on year.</p> <p>Horse registrations follow a similar theme. In 2020 there were 348 para equestrian horses registered, compared to 412 in 2019; reflecting a 15.5% year on year drop.</p> <p>For 2021 there are currently 23 dressage and 2 driving events scheduled in the calendar at this stage.</p>
2	<p>Paralympic Games</p> <p>Of course, the most significant loss to the 2020 calendar was the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, which has been postponed to 2021. Preparations for the Games continue, albeit with cost-cutting measures in place to satisfy the OC and IPC's desire to closely manage the cost of the Games given the one-year delay.</p> <p>Qualification for the Games was complete, with all quota slots allocated. Tokyo will have 28 National Paralympic Committees represented, which compares to 29 in Rio, however, due to the new format, more nations are able to field a team, with 16 due to contest the team medals compared to 14 in Rio.</p> <p>Due to the one-year postponement, minimum eligibility requirements have been adjusted to give athletes further opportunity to achieve this prior to the Games. The other requirement will be for review status athletes to be reviewed prior to the Games. The pandemic travel restrictions might make this challenging, so the technical committee and classification working group are currently reviewing the best options to achieve this for all athletes who require.</p>

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3	<p>Classification</p> <p>The three-year classification research project run by the University of Central Lancashire and Hartpury University continues. The scoping review looking at performance measures is complete. Qualitative research in the form of interviews with athletes and other stakeholders has been conducted. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, some of this year's activity has been cancelled. It was hoped that clinical tests with athletes would have happened this summer, however, was lost due to social distancing restrictions. It is therefore likely that the research project will continue for an additional year to have the full study completed.</p> <p>As reported previously, once the initial research is completed, further work will need to be done by the Classification Working Group and the Technical Committee on how the research can be applied practically.</p>
4	<p>Para Equestrian Forum</p> <p>Following the very successful forum in 2019, it was planned to host the bi-annual event in Amsterdam in January 2021. However, with the postponement of the Paralympic Games and therefore also the major rules revision process, it has been decided to move the forum to 2022, again in Amsterdam.</p>
5	<p>Education</p> <p>The Competency Evaluation System for Officials was launched for para dressage, with 127 officials passing the assessment so far.</p> <p>Marco Orsini continues to do an excellent job as the Para Dressage Judge General. Along with the education working group they have recently updated all of the questions for the next year's assessments.</p> <p>Unfortunately, all of the in-person Judge and Steward's courses planned for 2020 had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. The committee is currently reviewing the best options for 2021; four in-person courses are tentatively scheduled, but consideration is being given to running on-line seminars where possible.</p>
6	<p>FEI eDressage</p> <p>As a new initiative to encourage our athletes, particularly during the show cancellations due to the pandemic, the committee was very happy to support the new initiative of eDressage for para. In partnership with Black Horse One and SAP, the new online platform allows our registered athletes to upload videos of their tests to receive feedback from our most experienced judges; a valuable support tool towards their training.</p>

7	<p>Committee News</p> <p>Having completed her four-year term of office, Deputy Chair Hanneke Gerritsen (NED) is due to step down from the committee. We are in great appreciation of her contribution over the years and look forward to continuing to work with her in her role as Technical Delegate for the Tokyo Paralympic Games.</p>
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