

23 November 2020

Committee name	Eventing
Date	23 November 2020
Chair	David O'Connor

Committee Report	
Pt.	Subject
	REPORT OF THE FEI EVENTING COMMITTEE 2020
	<p>INTRODUCTION</p> <p>Given the current Covid-19 pandemic situation the Eventing Committee for monthly videoconference calls between March November 2020, led by the Chair David O'Connor and attended by all the Eventing Committee Members and FEI Eventing Department.</p> <p>The Eventing Committee videoconference calls included many discussions to finding solutions to the ramifications of the Covid-19 virus in order to encourage the organisation of Eventing competitions, Nations Cup and Championships.</p> <p>The different National Governments' decrees in most countries on Covid-19 countermeasures in regard to mass gatherings and travel restrictions had led to most of Eventing competitions being cancelled worldwide from March until July 2020. Return-to-Play had started to resume from July with most regular events in the calendar taking being organised without spectators and with Government and FEI Return-to-Play policies in place.</p> <p>COMMITTEE MEETINGS</p> <p>The main points discussed during the 2020 Eventing Committee videoconference calls were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olympic Games: During the Eventing Committee Conference Calls, official communications from the IOC had been published to inform that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 were to be rescheduled to the following year, reflecting the 2020 dates. Most deadlines would be reviewed to closely reflect the dates planned for 2020 with a year's delay. Together with the other disciplines the Eligibility requirements had been reviewed to take into account the additional year. The IOC had equally confirmed that all Nations having already achieved an Olympic Qualification quota place would retain this despite the postponement of the Games. • Covid-19 impact on Eventing: An Eventing Calendar Task Force, one of the eight discipline-specific task forces, had been created by the FEI to evaluate the impact on the FEI Calendar and propose ways of mitigating Covid-19 effects on the discipline (i.e. qualification events for the postponed Olympic, Continental Games, Championships, Nations Cup Series, 2020 organisational requirements and Calendar) and to provide proposed solutions to the FEI Secretary General and the Board. The Eventing Task Force held its first meeting via videoconference on 24 April 2020. • Covid-19 impact on Officials & Athletes:

23 November 2020

The Board (FEI Board Emergency resolution 21 July 2020) agreed to extend the exemption that is currently in place for Australia and New Zealand to all countries. With this exemption, which would be reviewed end December 2020, foreign official requirements would not be compulsory, for CCI4* Long & short formats however two (2) Judges, Technical Delegate and Course Designer would need to be selected from the Level 3 lists.

The Eventing Athlete Categorisation used to determine Eligibility requirements for events according to the rules are calculated on 01 July 2020 and was based on an eight year rolling period. Considering the current situation and the lack of qualification opportunity for athletes in 2020, the Eventing Committee agreed to take 8.5 years into account for the 01 July 2020 Athletes Categories review, to be reviewed for extension by the Eventing Committee for the next Category review on 01 January 2021.

- **Covid-19 Eventing Specific Guidelines:** The *FEI Policy for Enhanced Competition Safety during the Covid-19 Pandemic – Effective for FEI Events held as of 1 July 2020* has been published on the FEI Website as a Guide to help Organising Committees with Return to Competition during the pandemic. The Covid-19 Eventing discipline Specific Guidelines had been finalised with the input of the Committee and Organisers. This document aimed to provide OCs with detailed guidance for the management of FEI Eventing Events during the Covid-19 pandemic.

In addition to COVID-+ related matters, the Eventing Committee discussed:

- **Risk Management:** Measures and recommendations of the Risk Management Report were reviewed including improvement of Horse injury reporting, EquiRatings®' Horse Form Index studies and use, clarification of Rotational and Torsional fall, Frangible Standard 2.0 with the introduction of the kettlebell pendulum test and new MIM clip to be fixed at an angle (yellow clip). (details below under sections 4 and 5)
- **2021 Eventing rules proposals:** See below, Eventing rules section 2.
Education: The revision of the Officials Education program to line up with the FEI Education Departments all discipline approach was on-going, as well as the redefinition of Officials' roles and responsibilities by the Eventing Officials Education Working Group. The criteria of appointment of Eventing Overall Course Director, the composition of the new Eventing Officials Education Working Group and the adjustment proposals of the CES System to the current circumstances were reviewed (see below, section 7).
- **Eventing Documents supporting Rules:** The Cross Country Guide for Officials, Memorandum and Equipment & Tack FAQ had been reviewed throughout 2020, finalised and published on the FEI Website.
- **FEI Eventing World Challenge:** During the first Eventing Committee Videoconference of the year (25 March 2020), the Eventing Committee had agreed to the development of a FEI Eventing World Challenge, following discussions with the FEI Solidarity Department in 2019 regarding possibilities of developing Eventing, as this would give a change to developing countries to reach international level. The FEI Eventing Committee Chairman encouraged

23 November 2020

	<p>the development of the Eventing Challenge and would pursue the project including the review of fence construction with the help of the FEI Solidarity Department and Eventing Department.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elkton, Fairhill (USA) CCI5*-L: Following the review of the reports provided by the Technical Delegate of the test Event held in August 2020 in Fairhill, the Eventing Committee agreed to put forward to the FEI Board the inclusion in the 2021 FEI Calendar of a CCI5*-L in Elkton (Fairhill, USA) on a five year basis with an initial review after three editions.
2.	<p>2020 RULES REVISION: (refer to GA Annex 19.2)</p> <p>All suggestions for modifications received from National Federations and Stakeholders by 1 March 2020 and falling in one of the revision criteria had been taken into account. New suggestions received after that deadline or not falling in one the revision criteria would be included as part of next rules revision process. The 2020 FEI Eventing rules had been reviewed by the Eventing Committee according to the new FEI rules revisions policy.</p> <p>The Eventing Committee provided the initial proposal for NFs review, and then considered the feedback for recommendations and clarifications for the 2021 Eventing Rules proposal which could not wait for the full revision. The rational for each proposal was added as per the format agreed by the FEI Board.</p> <p>It included updates due to last year rules revision processes, especially in regards to the new education system and the modification of sanctions system.</p> <p>The proposals also included: number of individuals at World Individual and Team Championships, ages of ponies, prizemoney distribution, requirements for promotion and maintenance of status, TD General Duties, CD responsibilities, the strengthening of the qualification requirements for less experienced Athletes participating at Higher level Events, official clothing, mandatory protective headgear, permitted and forbidden saddlery, permitted mouthpieces, cheek pieces and nosebands, water crossings, ground lines on XC obstacles, obstacles with alternatives, Annex D Medical Services and qualification requirements for Pony Events.</p> <p>In regards to the risk management, it has been decided to maintain the proposal to have mandatory frangible technologies at all levels as of 1st January 2021.</p>
3.	<p>FEI EVENTING RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME</p> <p>The FEI Eventing Risk Management Programme including data collection has been ongoing since 2000 and now includes 20 years. The data collected by the Eventing Department includes fence description forms, fall reports and fence analysis. The amount of data now allows for significant base for information queries in regard to risk management and all other questions related to qualification and technical issues in the discipline. The effort is substantial however the results are invaluable.</p> <p>For 2020, the number of competitions had decreased by 51.5 %, from 742 in 2019 to 360 (figures at end October 2020) due to the Covid-19 pandemic situation.</p> <p>The number of announced competitions in the calendar in January 2020 was 763 (which would have been an increase of 2.83 % compared to 2019). However, more than 50 % of the competitions have been cancelled.</p>

EVENTING RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY AND ACTION PLAN

1. The ongoing primary commitment of the FEI Eventing Committee is to ensure that **the FEI Risk Management Policy and Action plan** is endorsed and implemented by all involved in the Sport with the support and dynamic involvement of National Federations, National Safety Officers, Athletes, Officials, Organisers, Owners and Sponsors.

2. The **FEI Eventing Risk Management (NSO) Seminar** was organised together with a "Future of the Sport" Forum in Aintree (GBR) in January 2020. A total of 145 participants from 29 countries attended. All sessions of the Forum were live-streamed and are available to watch on replay on the FEI website, which was very appreciated by the Eventing community.

The main points of discussion included the future of Eventing, the internal structure of the sport, Risk Management, data and the use of statistics, the safety programme, Rule changes, Dressage tests, the importance of Athlete education, Cross Country specific items such as course design, the role of Officials on Cross Country day, Cross Country Performance Indicator.

The Forum was followed by a NSO Seminar where 67 National Safety Officers and NF representatives from 25 countries participated. The agenda focused on the Risk Management Programme update, including discussions on body protectors, rider representative role, frangible devices, horse injuries, etc. In addition, each nation had the opportunity to give a presentation on the Risk Management program in their country.

The **FEI Eventing Risk Management Steering Group** met further to the Eventing Risk Management (NSO) Seminar and recommendations were put forward to the Eventing Committee, detailed under point 5 hereunder.

3. The **2021 FEI Eventing Risk Management (NSO) Seminar** will be organised online due to the Covid-19 pandemic situation. It will be held in January 2021 over 2-3 days and available to all Eventing Officials and NSOs. The subjects could include: Officials roles during Cross Country, Education of Athletes and Coaches, Covid-19 related to Risk Management, Return to play of horses, Horse injuries, EquiRatings Horse Form Index, and new technologies

4. **EquiRatings®**

Continued work in partnership with EquiRatings® to implement a reviewed and improved Cross Country Horse performance index (HFI) available in the FEI Database available for Athletes and their NFs. EquiRatings mandate with the FEI also includes specific data analysis for decision making support to the Eventing Committee and Eventing Risk Management Steering Group.

EVENTING RISK MANAGEMENT STATISTICS

- The number of competitions are growing consistently, with an increase of 10.8 % and an increase of starters of 2.8 % over the last 5 years (2015-2019).
- **Falls:** The total falls are stable (except at the 5 star level (previous 4 star level) where the low number of starters had an influence on the percentage of falls).

The horse falls have decreased from 1.41 % in 2015 to 1.36 % in 2019. The number of rotational falls is very small with 26 falls in 2019, the percentage has dropped

23 November 2020

	<p>over the last 10 years from 0.31 % in 2010 to 0.12 % in 2019. Up to 2017, falls on the flat, included all falls not related to a Cross Country fence (Dressage, Show Jumping, warm-up areas and on the flat in XC), as of 2018, the split showing where the falls occurred allowed a better understanding of the non-fence related falls.</p> <p>Out of 1166 falls reported for 2019, 54 were XC falls on the flat (4.63%), 109 in Show Jumping (9.35 %), 1 in Dressage (0.09%) and 72 in warm-up (6.17 %).</p> <p>Falls per athlete category: At all levels of competition, the non-categorised athletes incurred the highest number of falls, it is concluded that this could be due to a lack of training and/or adequate cross country education.</p> <p>The provisional 2020 data (end July) shows a total fall rate of 3.67 % (128 falls for 3690 starters). The significant decrease of total falls from 5.57 % in 2019 could be linked to the lack of 5 Star competitions. This figure could evolve as the remainder of the 2020 competitions are entered in the Risk Management database.</p>
4.	<p>Eventing Risk Management Steering Group (RMSG)</p> <p>The Risk Management Steering Group Meeting as a subgroup for the Eventing Committee met in January 2020 following the Risk Management Forum and the Eventing Risk Management (NSO) Seminar. An additional member, Dr Dave Vos (USA) had been nominated, his knowledge and work on the Update of the Frangible Device Standard as well as the video projects was very valuable.</p> <p>In addition, Conference Calls took place in August and September to discuss the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualification Criteria / Higher Level Events: Increased MERs for CCI5*-L competitions to be adapted depending on the athlete category • Education of Coaches / Athletes / Officials: development of a video to be made available on FEI Campus • Update of the Injury of Athletes and Horses definitions • Update of Cross Country Design Guide on sloping shoulders, minimum widths of fences and a description guide for ground lines • Frangible Technologies: Finalisation of the Updated Standard for Frangible Devices to be implemented as from 1 January 2021. • Communication: increased number of posts on NSO Facebook page • Risk Management Policy and Action Plan: Review and update of the current version needed to take place based on a "risk matrix" used during company risk assessment to define the level of risk by considering the category of probability or likelihood against the category of consequence severity • Body protectors Standards: suggestion to the Medical Committee to change the body protectors standards currently recommended in the Rules to mandatory • Update of the Medical Coverage at Events (Annex D) with the Medical Committee • Video at CCI5*-L Events: Further to the valuable technical information obtained based on the filming in 2019, the projects would be pursued in 2020 • Online reporting for Officials: the importance of developing for Officials the possibility to enter the Risk Management related data in the FEI database was again emphasised • Horse Injury Reporting: coordination with the Veterinary Department to correlate the information from the Veterinary Reports and the Eventing fall reports

23 November 2020

	<p>The Risk Management Steering Group members included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geoff Sinclair (AUS) (Chair) • Mike Etherington-Smith (GBR) • Jonathan Holling (USA) • Rob Stevenson (CAN) • Gert Naber (NED) • Staffan Lidbeck (SWE) • Laurent Bousquet (FRA) • Dave Vos (USA)
5.	<p>EVENTING SERIES AND CHAMPIONSHIPS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. FEI Eventing CHAMPIONSHIPS b. FEI NATIONS CUP - EVENTING c. FEI EVENTING WORLD ATHLETES RANKINGS d. OTHER SERIES APPROVED BY THE FEI
	<p>a. FEI Eventing Championships</p> <p>Due to the travel restrictions, border closing, and therefore the impossibility for Athlete/Horse combinations to prepare themselves for an FEI Championship, the both the Pony, Junior and Young Rider European Championships were cancelled.</p> <p>As a consequence to the postponement of the 2020 Olympic Games to 2021, all senior 2021 European Championships were initially cancelled by the FEI Board. Further discussion were then held with the EEF and Eventing Calendar Task Force, with the Eventing Committee support for the inclusion of an FEI Eventing European Championship to take place in September 2021 to not impact on the Olympic and Paralympic Games and existing events. Applications were still under review, for a decision of the FEI Board by end October 2020.</p> <p>b. FEI Eventing Nation's Cup Series:</p> <p>In 2020, the Eventing Nations Cup season was challenged by travel and border restrictions due to Covid-19. Six (6) out of the eight (8) originally allocated legs were cancelled. Montelibretti (ITA) offered to run the last leg, after ITA had to cancel Praton, ultimately comprising a 3 legged Series: Strzegom (POL), Le Pin au Haras (FRA) and Montelibretti (ITA). To date, ten (10) Nations had competed in two (2) Events and the final classification would be decided at the last event in Montelibretti (ITA).</p> <p>Following the Eventing Committee recommendation to adapt the overall 2020 Nations Cup Classification, agreed by the FEI Board as follows: If 3 or above Nations Cup Events take place: a classification would be made end 2020 of the best team based on the 2 best event results.</p> <p>In 2021, further to the reallocation of the 2020 Events to 2021 and possibility additional applications to be reviewed by the FEI Board taking inaccount the financial situation, the 2021 FEI Eventing Nations Cup Series would include the same number of events as planned in 2020 taking place on a monthly basis from April to October 2021.</p> <p>c. FEI World Eventing Athlete Rankings:</p>

23 November 2020

Oliver Townend (GBR) led the final 2019 FEI Eventing World Athlete Rankings overall classification with 544 points.

The 2019 leaders of the Eventing Zone Rankings were:

North Western Europe	Oliver Townend (GBR) 544 pts
South Western Europe:	Felix Vogg (SUI) 298 pts
Central & Eastern Europe, Central Asia	Aleksandr Markov (RUS) 237 pts
North America	Lauren Nicholson (USA) 408 pts
Central & South America	Carlos Lobos Muñoz (CHI) 220 pts
Africa & Middle East	Usman Khan (PAK) 79 pts
South East Asia and Oceania	Tim Price (NZL) 542 pts

The Committee was currently reviewing the Ranking point system to relate the number of starters with the points awarded to the Athletes, for intended implementation in 2021.

d. Other Series approved by the FEI:

Event Rider Masters

The 2020 Event Rider Masters (ERM) Series originally included 4 Events organized in 3 countries – Great Britain, Belgium and France with an overall prize money of 2000'000 GBP.

Christopher Burton (AUS) won the 2019 Event Rider Masters Series for the 2nd year in a row.

The Series has contributed to promote the sport through innovative means with live streaming, commentating, and technical information for public during the Cross Country.

The Organising Committee of the Event Rider Masters announced on 13 March 2020 that the Series would not be running in 2020 due to the Covid-19.

For the future, the promoters of the Series were looking at different ways to encourage more sponsoring support through the introduction of a new competition format.

Tristar Grand Slam

The Tristar Grand Slam is awarded to an Athlete having won three out of four CCI4*-S held in Great Britain with a prizemoney of 50'000 GB£ for since 2016. It has not been won yet. The Series was originally intended for 2020, included four (4) Events and was cancelled mid-2020, as two (2) out of four (4) Events were cancelled due to Covid-19. The Series intends to run in 2021.

Africa Eventing Cup (Lower level Series)

The Africa Eventing Cup Series ran through 2018 and 2019, applying the current CCI1*-Intro and originally hosting 2 Events per year (ZIM, RSA & NAM). Considering the difficulties the Nations had with border crossings, the financial aspect of hosting a leg as well as getting 3 qualified combinations on a team, it proved to be a too challenging series to develop. The Africa Eventing Cup initiators decided to not pursue the 2020-

23 November 2020

	<p>2021 edition of the Series, and was currently reviewing eased border crossing possibilities and exploring solutions between participating OCs for an agreed Series format that would also give more opportunity for Athletes to compete, facing less financial and border challenges.</p> <p>The Eventing Committee is studying a Challenge format with the Solidarity Department which could serve as the introduction to Eventing on a similar level to promote the disciplines.</p> <p>Horse Sport Ireland Eventing Challenge (Lower level Series)</p> <p>This Series linked 6 different Events in Ireland at three (3) star level and awarded points to Athletes placed in the top three (3) at each Short or Long format IRL competitions. The current 2019 leader for the Series was Kevin McNab (IRL) with 300 points.</p> <p>Horse Sport Ireland had intended on running the Series in 2020. Nevertheless considering half of the Events linked to the Series had to be cancelled due to Coronavirus, the Series did not take place in 2020.</p>
6.	EDUCATION OF OFFICIALS
	<p>The regular Education Programmes for Officials in Eventing were highly impacted by Covid-19 travel restrictions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Official Exchange Programme - Eventing had 12 Officials enrolled, but only one had been able travel in 2020 and officiate within the programme. b) The Course Calendar 2020 and the regular training courses for all four categories of Eventing Officials were affected: two in-person courses for J/TD/CD could take place, one in POR and one in POL, whilst the Stewards could join only one in-person course, in POL. <p>The Overall Course Directors Conformity seminar took place in Lausanne in February 2020, and the following topics were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The in-person courses themes highlighted for 2020 – in addition to actual Syllabus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of the 2020 Rules changes, with emphasize on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Narrow fences - Missing flags (clear, 20 pen and EL) with selection of Video support o Updated sanction system & implementation - Frangibles/MIM (understanding of correct fitting) - Serious incident management - The reinforcement of the role of President of the Ground Jury, the review of GJ Members roles, the TD's Cross Country involvement and expertise, and the Course Designers increased responsibility during XC, <p>The 2021 course calendar looked promising, with 8 in-persons courses planned for J/TD/CD in AUS, BLR, BRA, FRA, GER, ITA, USA and 7 for Stewards, in AUS, BRA, COL, FRA, HUN, SWE and USA. Three additional requests to host in-person course of national level were also received from AUS, BRA and RUS.</p> <p>Based on the RMSG recommendations, the Eventing Department worked with several Officials on the production of video clips/webinars on various topics such Horse Welfare, Dangerous Riding, Fence Judge function, Coach and Athlete Education, etc..</p>

	<p>to be posted on FEI Campus. The idea was to have short, comprehensive and educative clips on important topics available for the Eventing community, and made by experienced Eventing Officials.</p> <p>.</p>
7.	Eventing DEVELOPMENT Program
	<p>The FEI Solidarity department developed the Equestrian Sport Educative Events (ESEE), focusing on Officials' Education. This tool made to help developing NFs to grow and manage the FEI disciplines at a NATIONAL level in a sustainable manner is quite successful. It counts as a FEI level 1 course if Officials attend 3 of these courses.</p> <p>Unfortunately, no ESEE could take place in 2020.</p>