

23 November 2020

Committee name	Endurance Temporary Committee
Date	22.10.2020
Chair	Dr. Sarah Coombs

Committee Report	
Pt.	Chair Report
	<p>Introduction</p> <p>It was decided at the 2019 FEI General Assembly in Moscow (RUS) that the Endurance Temporary Committee (ETC) will remain in an advisory role until elections for the FEI Endurance Committee can be held at the 2020 FEI General Assembly.</p> <p>The ETC met nine times via Teleconference to discuss the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Restructuring of the FEI Endurance Department 2. Covid-19 pandemic 3. Explanatory leaflet for new Endurance Rules 4. Implementation of FEI Endurance Rules 2020 5. Performance evaluation of Officials 6. Status update of legal investigations 7. Allocation of FEI World Endurance Championship 2022 8. Nominations for FEI Endurance Committee 2020-21 9. Allocation of Officials for Championships and attendance at Test Events
	<p>1. Restructuring of the Endurance Department</p> <p>The FEI has implemented a full restructure of the Endurance & Driving Department aimed at further streamlining governance/management of the Endurance discipline and full implementation of the 2020 Endurance Rules.</p> <p>As part of this re-organisation, the role of the current Director is to be revised. Manuel Bandeira de Mello's title has been changed to Director of Driving, Para Driving & Special Projects, and the FEI will recruit a new Endurance Director, allowing for a special focus on a discipline that requires stringent oversight. Although candidates have been shortlisted for the Director position, the recruitment process has been slowed due to the inability to conduct in-person interviews.</p> <p>FEI staff members Marc Chovelon and Anna Orgeas are now fully dedicated to Endurance and an additional person will be recruited for the department.</p>

2. Covid-19 pandemic

On 24 March 2020, the FEI Board created a series of discipline-specific Task Forces to evaluate the impact on the FEI Calendar of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Endurance Task Force includes the Chair of the FEI Endurance Temporary Committee, an Endurance Athlete representative, representatives of the European Equestrian Federation (EEF) and Equestrian Organisers as well as key members from FEI headquarters.

They have conducted three meetings via teleconference.

There have been 214 shows, representing 731 events since 15 March 2020 cancellations till today. Please see Annex 1 attached.

To mitigate the effects of the pandemic, the FEI Board approved an Emergency Resolution under Art. 20.3 of the FEI Statutes to “freeze” the qualification of horses from the initial six-month period to nine months, meaning that the validity of star level qualification and process of qualification is 24 months plus twelve months, which makes a total of 36 months for ALL Endurance Horses as well as Novice Athletes.

The FEI’s IT Department have spent an estimated 459.52 hours making the necessary adjustments to the online systems, to review and adjust all the qualification procedures and to reflect the qualification situation of Endurance Horses and Athletes.

3. Explanatory leaflet for new rules

The FEI Board approved the recommendation of the Endurance Temporary Committee not to extend the application of the Endurance Rules 10th Edition (“Transitional Rulebook”) and to go ahead with the implementation of the new Endurance Rules, 11th Edition, on 1 July 2020, as approved by the FEI General Assembly 2019.

The “Application of the New Endurance Rules 2020 Leaflet”, effective as of 1 July 2020, has been updated and the print files can be downloaded directly from the FEI website for third-party communications. Click [here](#) for the updated leaflet.

	<p>4. Implementation of FEI Endurance Rules 2020</p> <p>The ETC has worked closely with the FEI Information and Sports Technology Department to ensure the efficient implementation of the new Endurance Rules.</p> <p>From March to October 2020, the FEI Information and Sports Technology Department has dedicated significant time and resources to support and assist end users and National Federations, as well as on IT development, data extraction and analysis, results processing and testing.</p> <p>The three people at the IT Department dedicated to this have spent 1,139 hours from March to October 2020 to ensure that the technological changes support the new Endurance Rules and the changes to the qualification system caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.</p>
	<p>5. Performance evaluation of officials</p> <p>The FEI Endurance Department has been working closely with the FEI Education Department to create online modules for the new evaluation process for FEI Officials in 2020.</p> <p>These online courses have been put in place to address the underperformance of Officials following the review of adverse reports from competition and observations made following Tribunal cases.</p>

	<p>6. Status update of legal investigations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FEI Endurance World Championships 2020, Pisa (ITA) The FEI initiated disciplinary proceedings against the Event Director at the FEI World Endurance Championships 2019 for Juniors & Young Riders and Young Horses in Pisa (ITA) on 18-20 September 2019, following allegations of his conduct at the event. After extensive discussions, the undertakings given and the agreed terms, the disciplinary action against Event Director Gialunca Laliscia have been resolved. As a result of the undertakings provided by Mr Laliscia and the Organisers, the FEI Board is satisfied that there is a sound basis for the successful staging of the 2021 Championship. • UAE National Federation suspended for Rules violations The FEI Board suspended the National Federation of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on 24 September 2020 following a detailed investigation into the circumstances around two National Endurance Events (CEN) in January and February 2020 - the Sheikh Mohammed Cup and The President's Cup – that should have been held as International Endurance Events (CEIs) as the number of foreign athletes far exceeded the quota permitted for National Events.
	<p>7. Allocation of FEI World Endurance Championship 2022</p> <p>The Board decided to postpone allocation of this Championship to its meeting in November to allow for a further review of the bids received from Dubai (UAE), Padise (EST), Riyadh (KSA) and Verona, Isola della Scala (ITA).</p>
	<p>8. Nominations for FEI Endurance Committee 2020-21</p> <p>The Endurance Temporary Committee will remain in place until the new Endurance Committee is populated through elections at the 2020 FEI General Assembly.</p> <p>Four applications have been received for the position of Chair and 17 applications for member positions. The ETC has made unanimous recommendations to the Nominations Committee for these positions.</p> <p>The ETC have appreciated the tireless efforts of Tarek Taher during his term as Endurance Athlete Representative during a particularly turbulent time both in the Endurance discipline itself and also during the pandemic. We are sorry to lose him, but can look back with great satisfaction at the huge amount that has been achieved in the two years since he took office, not least the full revision of the Endurance Rules.</p>

	<p>9. Allocation of Officials for Championships and attendance at Test Events</p> <p>The Board decided that the provision in the 2020 FEI Endurance Rules whereby FEI Headquarters would appoint Officials for certain star levels and Championships could be derogated from upon request, with any request to be dealt with on a case-by-case basis due to the travel constraints caused by the pandemic.</p> <p>The ETC is looking at the effect of these new Rules on the logistical implications for Endurance rides organised by smaller NFs.</p>
	<p>I would like to pay tribute to the hard work and dedication of the Endurance Temporary Committee, and to the Endurance Department who have continued their unstinting efforts to progress the discipline through the new Rules despite the most difficult of years. All of us wish Manuel well as he moves to his new role within the FEI.</p>