

23 November 2020

Committee name	Athletes Committee
Date	23 November 2020
Chair	Maria Gretzer

Committee Report

Given the current global sanitary situation, the FEI Athletes Committee held a virtual meeting on 7 October 2020 during which an update on latest developments was given, namely:

1. TOKYO 2020 OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC GAMES

The main highlight was that the Tokyo 2020 would be maintained and reshaped in 2021 in order to reduce costs and simplify the organisation. Our athletes were greatly impacted by the cancellation of the Games in 2020 and they are now looking very much forward to the 2021 edition. The cancellation of events during the pandemic was not without consequences for riders and their horses as they lacked opportunities to compete. Fortunately, Olympic and Paralympic qualifications had been completed before the pandemic.

2. FEI CALENDAR

With regard to the FEI Calendar, Committee members had been involved in the work of their specific discipline Calendar Task Forces set up to evaluate the impact of the current sanitary crisis in to the FEI Calendar of events and make recommendations to the FEI Board. To date the Athletes representatives have actively participated in a total of 23 FEI Calendar Task Forces as follows: 6 in Jumping, 4 in Dressage, 2 in Eventing, 4 in Endurance, 3 in Driving, 2 in Para Equestrian and 1 in Vaulting and Reining.

By the date of the Athletes Committee Teleconference on 7 October 2020:

- In 2020 2236 events/shows were cancelled which represents 66% of the events in the FEI Calendar.
- In 2021 National Federations and Organisers had taken an optimistic approach for 2021 with 4904 events/shows in the FEI Calendar as follows:
 - Jumping: 2205
 - Dressage: 802
 - Para-Dressage: 33
 - Eventing: 773
 - Driving: 322
 - Endurance: 663
 - Para-Driving: 1
 - Vaulting: 93
 - Reining: 0

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3.	WADA
	As Athletes' Committee Chair, I had the opportunity to meet virtually the new WADA President at a teleconference on 10 September 2020 during which he explained WADA Strategic Plan and emphasised WADA's purpose to be <i>athletes' centered</i> and delivered his intention to work closely with the athletes.
4.	ATHLETES COMMITTEE COMPOSITION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Jumping: further to the resignation of Cian O'Connor (IRL) and following the recommendation of the International Jumping Riders Club, the FEI Jumping Committee and the FEI Executive Board, the FEI Board agreed to appoint Pedro Veniss (BRA), in replacement of Maria Gretzer, as the Jumping Athlete Representative ad-interim, with full rights, in the Athletes Committee and in the Jumping Committee until new elections take place; and- Endurance: further to the resignation of Tarek Taher (KSA) the FEI is to follow a similar process for the appointment of an ad-interim Endurance Athlete Representative once the FEI Endurance Committee is fully composed at the General Assembly 2020.

Thank you for your attention.

Maria Gretzer
Chair FEI Athletes Committee