

17 November 2021, Antwerp (BEL)

Committee name	EVENTING
Date	06.10.2021
Chair	David O'Connor

Committee Report	
Pt.	Subject
	REPORT OF THE FEI EVENTING COMMITTEE 2021
1.	<p>INTRODUCTION</p> <p>The Eventing Committee continued to meet in 2021 for regular videoconference calls led by the Chair David O'Connor. All of the Eventing Committee members and the FEI Eventing Department members participated. All Eventing related meetings in 2021 (Eventing Committee, Risk Management Steering Group, Risk Management seminars, Eventing Education meetings) were also held online and it was deemed to be time and cost effective due to less global travel.</p> <p>Tokyo Olympic Games: The Eventing Committee acknowledged that Eventing competitions at the Olympic Games were a great success. Despite the Games taking place a year later than planned, and limited possibilities of travel for all involved in the preparation of the Cross country, the course plan under the craftsmanship of Derek Di Grazia (USA) was highly innovative reflecting the highest level of competition. The Eventing Team and Individual quotas were filled and 65 athletes participated. The competition format with substitution procedures worked well and the Team and Individual Jumping tests provided a thrilling finish. The spectators and all media outlets gave very positive feedback namely for the simplicity of the overall classifications and the highly exciting competitions.</p> <p>COMMITTEE MEETINGS</p> <p>The main points discussed during the 2021 Eventing Committee videoconference calls were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Olympic Games: Regular updates were made on the progress of the preparation of the Eventing competitions, particularly the challenges handling the pre-visits of the Course Designer, TD and other officials due to the extremely travel restrictions in Japan.• Risk Management: Measures and recommendations of the Risk Management Report were reviewed including Athlete Categorisation, Return to Play of Horses, improvement of Horse injury reporting, EquiRatings®, Horse Form Index studies and use, Frangible Devices including the new yellow MIM clip for fences jumped at an angle and protective equipment standards. (Details in sections 3 & 4 below.)• 2021 Eventing rules proposals: See below, Eventing rules section 2. <p>Education: The revision of the Officials Education programme to line up with the FEI Education Department's all-discipline-approach was on-going, as well as the redefinition of Officials' roles and responsibilities by the Eventing Officials</p>

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	<p>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).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eventing Documents supporting Rules: The Cross Country Guide for Officials, Memorandum and Equipment & Tack FAQ was updated on a regular basis during the year to allow for clarification to the existing Rules and to ensure consistent interpretation specifically of tack rules and published on the FEI Website. <p>An internal HQ Tack revision group was formed to also review between disciplines the application and different tack rules as a support to the Technical Committees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FEI Eventing World Challenge: The Eventing Committee agreed to the development of a FEI Eventing World Challenge, and to proceed with a pilot test in three different regions in 2022 in cooperation with the FEI Solidarity Department. The objective being to encourage countries with less competition opportunities to reach international level.
<p>2.</p>	<p>2021 RULES REVISION: (refer to GA Annex 19.2 – Eventing Rules)</p> <p>All suggestions for modifications received from the National Federations (NFs) and Stakeholders were received by 1 March 2021. The Eventing Committee reviewed and provided the initial proposal for the NFs’ review by July 2021 and then considered the feedback for recommendations and clarifications for the 2022 Eventing Rules proposal which could not wait for the full revision of 2023. The rationale for each proposal was added as per the format agreed by the FEI Board.</p> <p>The proposals included (please refer to annex for full list):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addition of a U25 category, mandatory FEI level 1 assistant steward on higher level events. • Clarification in the MER definition that one missed flag will maintain the MER, alternative MERs for 4*-L for Athlete not yet categorized at the level of the competition, six-month extension of the athlete categorization period to compensate for the cancellations of almost all events in the first semester of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. • Clarification of length of lever arm and hackamore, limitation of the length of hanging cheek bit for the Dressage test. • Addition of paperless judging for the Dressage test, allowance of additional jumping efforts in the cross country course.
<p>3.</p>	<p>FEI EVENTING RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME</p> <p>The FEI Eventing Risk Management Programme, ongoing since 2000, includes 21 years of data collection. The data from each competition including fence description forms, fall reports and fence analysis was collected by the Eventing Department. The amount of data allowed significant data mining and extractions of invaluable information for the Risk Management Steering Group such as queries linked to Athlete and Horse</p>

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qualification and the discipline's technical issues. This data also allowed the Eventing Committee to make informed decisions on policy making and technical improvements of Cross Country course concepts.

The next step would be to update the data collection from manual collection process to an online system. It would enable Officials to enter data digitally to be uploaded to the FEI database and increase data accuracy and facilitate the work for Officials and FEI Headquarters to process the paperwork into the database.

For 2021, the number of competitions had decreased by 12% from 758 in 2019 to 662 (figures at end October 2021) (Only 335 competitions in 2020 due to Covid situation).

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. The FEI Eventing Risk management Steering group was formed to monitor and oversee the overall Eventing Risk Management Program.
2. The **FEI Eventing Risk Management and NSO Seminar** was organised online in January 2021. A total of 117 participants from 30 countries attended. All sessions of the Seminar were live-streamed and are available to watch on replay on the FEI website. This was a huge technical undertaking by the IT and Eventing Department, which was much appreciated by all attendees as to the content and helping to keep in touch during Covid times.

The main points of discussion of the Seminar included Medical presentations on Coronavirus related to Risk Management and Protective Equipment, Risk Management Programme and Statistics, Cross Country fence Frangible Device Updated Standard, Risk Management Studies Research Projects with EquiRatings® and Alogo Analysis – a Swiss company developing the equine sensor device "Move Pro" to analyse horse performances and monitor their health, Officials Role during XC day and Education of Athletes and Coaches

The Risk Management Seminar was followed by a NSO Seminar where 50 National Safety Officers (NSOs) and NF representatives from 25 countries participated. NSOs gave presentations on Risk Management projects and Eventing related topics in their respective countries.

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

3. A condensed 2022 **FEI Eventing Risk Management and NSO Seminar** would be organised online in January 2022. The subjects would include Frangible Device development and implementation, EquiRatings Horse Form Index deployment, 2022 Rule changes, Risk Management Programme and Statistics.

4. **EquiRatings®**

Continuous work in partnership with EquiRatings® supported the Eventing Committee/Department to implement the Horse Form Index (HFI) in the FEI

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	<p>Database available for Athletes and their NFs in January 2022. EquiRatings® mandate with the FEI also includes specific data analysis for decision making support to the Eventing Committee and Eventing Risk Management Steering Group.</p> <p>EVENTING RISK MANAGEMENT STATISTICS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the number of competitions decreased by 55% in 2020 with 335 compared to 758 in 2019. The provisional data (30 June, 2021) shows a total fall rate of 4.55% (395 falls for 8,673 starters). The slight increase from 4.34% for 2020 could evolve as the remainder of the 2021 competitions are not yet entered in the Risk Management database.• Falls: The total falls have decreased, however, this trend would have to be confirmed after the Covid-19 situation (except at the 5 star level (previous 4 star level) where the low number of starters had an influence on the percentage of falls). Horse falls have decreased from 1.40 % in 2016 to 1.06 % in 2020. The number of rotational falls is very small with 12 falls in 2020; the percentage has dropped over the last 10 years from 0.20 % in 2011 to 0.11 % in 2020. Out of 462 falls reported for 2020, 37 were cross country falls on the flat (8.01%), 58 in Jumping (12.55 %), 0 in Dressage (0%) and 29 in warm-up (6.28 %). 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.
4.	<p>Eventing Risk Management Steering Group (RMSG)</p> <p>The RMSG Meeting, a subgroup for the Eventing Committee, met online in February 2021 following the Risk Management and NSO Seminar.</p> <p>In addition, Conference Calls took place in May, June and September to discuss the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MERs validity period for Athlete Categorisation• Return to play for horses (requirements for horses away from competition for a defined period of time)• EquiRatings® HFI implementation in the FEI database• Course Designers feedback after competition (additional form)• FEI Campus – Eventing webinars on Cross Country Guide for Officials, the importance of ground lines in a cross country course, the role of the Athlete Representative at International Events, Horse Welfare, Coaching of Athlete and Horse, Cross Country Control Center, Fence Judge Function, Serious Incident Management Plan• Frangible Technologies: Organisation of an online Frangible Device session for Course Designers, Technical Delegates and National Federations from nations with little experience with frangible devices (available to watch on the FEI website)• Frangible Technologies: feedback on the use of frangible technologies at events (in particular MIM Yellow Clips)• Alogo Move Pro sensor study taking place at the CCI4*-S June and CH-EU-CCI4*-L September competitions in Avenches (SUI)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tack and Equipment: Review of the standards available for body protectors, air-vests and helmets • Communication: increased number of posts on NSO Facebook page and FEI Eventing Department Updates • Risk Management Policy and Action Plan: Review and update of the current version • Horse Injury Reporting: continued work with the Veterinary Department to improve the correlation of information between the Veterinary Reports and the Eventing fall reports • 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. Manual data entry was time consuming and carried an increased risk of error <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) (on leave for 2021) • Gert Naber (NED) • Staffan Lidbeck (SWE) • Laurent Bousquet (FRA) • Dave Vos (USA)
<p>5.</p>	<p>EVENTING SERIES AND CHAMPIONSHIPS:</p> <ol 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
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. FEI Eventing Championships The FEI European Championships for Pony, Junior & Young Rider were successfully held in 2021 after these were cancelled in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. 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. After discussion with the EEF and Eventing Calendar Task Force, the FEI Eventing European Championship were reinstated for September 2021 and were successfully held in Avenches (SUI) b. FEI Eventing Nation's Cup Series: In 2021, the Eventing Nations Cup season was still challenged by travel and border restrictions due to Covid-19. Five (5) out of the nine (9) originally allocated legs took place. Boekelo (NED) hosted the final competition of the season after Houghton Hall (GBR), Strzegom (POL), Le Pin au Haras (FRA) and Arville (BEL). As 5 legs were held, all results were taken into account for the final classification. In total, fourteen teams competed in the 5 legs with Sweden finishing on top of the overall standings.

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c. FEI World Eventing Athlete Rankings:

Oliver Townend (GBR) led the final 2020 FEI Eventing World Athlete Rankings overall classification with 577 points.

The 2020 leaders of the Eventing Zone Rankings were:

North Western Europe	Oliver Townend (GBR) 577 pts
South Western Europe:	Felix Vogg (SUI) 371 pts
Central & Eastern Europe, Central Asia	Aleksandr Markov (RUS) 276 pts
North America	Boyd Martin (USA) 454 pts
Central & South America	Carlos Lobos Muñoz (CHI) 221 pts
Africa & Middle East	Usman Khan (PAK) 111 pts
South East Asia and Oceania	Tim Price (NZL) 573 pts

The Committee had agreed to propose that Ranking point system be updated to relate the points awarded to the Athletes to the number of starters for each event. The 2021 Ranking rules were approved by the Board on January 2021.

In 2021, the Eventing World Athletes rankings remained frozen as per the Board resolution in order to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 pandemic.

The Eventing Committee reviewed the de-freeze of the Athlete rankings in order to be back to a normal 12 months period for the beginning of the season 2022. This will be reviewed by the Board in October 2021.

d. Other Series approved by the FEI:

No other Eventing series were organised in 2021 for Eventing.

6. EDUCATION OF OFFICIALS

The regular Education Programmes for Officials in Eventing were still highly impacted by Covid-19 travel restrictions:

- a) The Official Exchange Programme - three Officials were able travel in 2021 and officiate within the programme.
- b) The Course Calendar 2021 and the regular training courses for all four categories of Eventing Officials were affected: three in-person courses for J/TD/CD was able to take place, in FRA , ITA and USA, whilst the Stewards were able to join three in-person course, in HUN, ITA and USA.
- c) The Emergency Virtual Maintenance Programme (EVMP) option were developed as an option for Officials in October and November 2021 for those unable to attend in-person courses for maintaining their status in 2020 and 2021.

The Overall Course Directors Conformity seminar was held online, via Webex, in February 2021: the latest information related to the Risk Management w shared as well as discussions and brainstorming on the Eventing New Education System. The outcome of the ongoing discussions were to be presented to the EC in October 2021.

HYBRID GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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	<p>A special workshop for Eventing Officials Course Directors had also been organized on How to conduct courses for adults using a virtual environment.</p> <p>The 2022 course calendar was published: 5 in-persons courses planned for J/TD/CD in BLR, GER, HUN, NZL, and POL, and 7 for Stewards, in BLR, COL, GER, HUN, NZL, POL and SWE.</p>
7.	EVENTING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
	<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>ESEE should be organised until the end of the year in NAM, KEN, ZAM, SWZ</p>