

## ANNEX Pt 36

17 November 2021, Antwerp (BEL)

### **EQUESTRIAN COMMUNITY INTEGRITY UNIT REPORT**

Equestrian Community Integrity Unit – 2020-2021 Report

by Lord John Stevens

Chairman, Quest Global Ltd

Chairman, Equestrian Community Integrity Unit

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I would first like to congratulate the FEI on a historic year, being the 100<sup>th</sup> since its inception back in 1921. It is clear that the International Federation has set the framework to allow for our wonderful sport to grow, and under the stewardship of the current management this progress has been skilfully guided in the right direction. There is a long line of respected leaders at the FEI and all have a duty to uphold the reputation that has preceded them. The reputation of the FEI continues to be exemplary within the sporting community with their attention to detail, integrity and independence.

Since we last spoke, times have again been incredibly challenging for a multitude of reasons across all sectors, however the resilience and determination shown within the Equestrian Community has been remarkable to witness. The continuation of national and international events whilst the local and international restrictions have been in place, shows that many obstacles can be overcome with the correct mindset and willingness to adapt.

This was even more evident during the planning and preparations for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, which will be remembered as historic for many reasons. Not only were there extraordinary challenges to overcome to stage an event of this scale whereby participants, horses, delegates, officials, press and support staff from all over the globe were welcomed during a global pandemic, but also athletes faced immense difficulty in adequately preparing for one of the biggest events of their careers.

The Games were once again a fantastic showcase of our sport on the biggest stage. The unique bond between horse and human was on display, and in a competition where men and women go head-to-head for Olympic glory. I think I can speak for everyone in saying how proud we all are of our International Federation, how they showed great resilience and determination in putting on a Games with such hurdles working alongside the Tokyo Organising Committee. The preparation of spectacular venues and stables that allowed for enthralling horse sport from start to finish, even without spectators, must be duly recognised.

The Equestrian Community Integrity Unit (ECIU) were on site in Tokyo for the Olympic Games where we deployed our latest state of the art surveillance system to

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the stables. Our new system records footage 24/7 and can be live monitored at any time from any location. This greatly enhances the safety and security of both people and horses on site at events where the technology is deployed. The Olympic Games was the second of three events where we deployed the system in 2021; the World Endurance Championships, Pisa (ITA) and European Jumping Championships, Riesenbeck (GER), being the first and third respectively.

The ECIU reporting hotline is a key tool in the battle against wrongdoing within our sport. Since its introduction in 2010, we have seen more and more International Federations contracting independent parties to monitor and manage these functions as well as oversee other matters. A critical element of transparency for any organisation is that there is an oversight body, and the FEI have been at the forefront of best practice in the sporting world since the creation of the ECIU.

For the time period of October 2020 to September 2021, we received 16 unique reports to the hotline. Reports are reviewed on a case-by-case basis with a large proportion filed and stored within our data management system, CLUE, whilst awaiting for further intelligence to progress with any action. Assistance from the wider Equestrian community in coming forward with any information, whether deemed significant or not, greatly assists our investigations. Without the support of the Equestrian Community, we can only go so far as to ensure those responsible for their negative impact on our sport are held accountable.

The following data details how the ECIU records the information received through the hotline, and the graphs indicate the trends that are taking place within the Equestrian Community over the past five years. We can see that this year we received less reports than the previous twelve-month cycle and the lowest total number since 2015/2016. Misconduct allegations continue to be the highest reported category for the third year running, and this may be due to individuals becoming more aware of critical issues and becoming increasingly confident in reporting incidents of this type to the ECIU.

Horse welfare allegations have dropped to below the average we have seen over the past twelve years, and we encourage continued identification of incidents that cause concern. There were zero doping allegations made within this twelve-month cycle and this is down to the hard work of the Veterinary Department which also resulted in zero positive cases (horse or human) at the Olympic Games. Whilst this is clearly welcomed as positive news, I would continue to urge any member of the Equestrian Community that has concerns about behaviours and practices of individuals to contact the ECIU. When reporting, your identity will remain anonymous if you so choose, as the welfare of the Equestrian Community, horse and human, is of the utmost importance.

The ECIU can be contacted through the hotline on +44 207 935 5822 or by email at [report@equestrianintegrity.com](mailto:report@equestrianintegrity.com).

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Data received from ECIU hotline

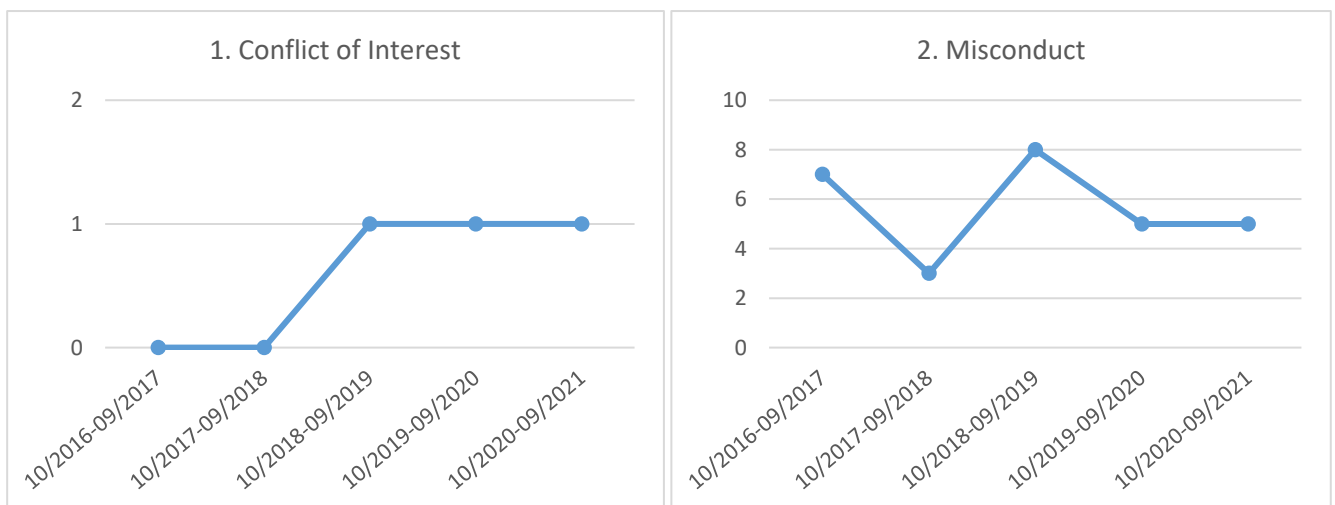
Table 1. Category break down and comparison of reports received by the ECIU between October 2019 to September 2020 and October 2020 to September 2021.

<b>Category of Information</b>	<b>10/2020-09/2021</b>	<b>10/2019-09/2020</b>
1. Conflict of Interest	1	1
2. Misconduct	5	5
3. Doping	0	3
4. Regulatory	2	4
5. Request for Information	1	0
6. Safeguarding	3	0
7. Horse Welfare	1	3
8. Other	3	1
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>

Table 2. This table shows the average annual total since the data was recorded in 2010 against the total reported for the twelve months between 10/2020-09/2021

	<b>10/2020-09/2021</b>	<b>01/2010-09/2021</b>
Average Annual Total vs 10/2020-09/2021	<b>16</b>	<b>18.92</b>

Fig 1-8. Trend of categories reported to the ECIU in the past five years



# HYBRID GENERAL ASSEMBLY



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