Future of Eventing – Social Licence

- Geoff Sinclair (AUS), RMSG Chair, Member Eventing Committee, Technical Delegate.
- Jenny Hall (GBR), Veterinary Committee Chair.
Eventing changes in the last 20 years

• 1999 Over 10 fatalities forcing review.
• 2000 Sydney last Olympics with roads & tracks & steeplechase plus two complete competitions for Individual and Team.
• 2010 Short format allowing jumping before XC. Now 60% of completions are short format.
• 2018 1* Unified introduced now 12% of competition.
• 2010 to now number of starters increased 30% and number of FEI competitions 50%+
• 2022 Social media and live broadcast has exploded.
Proof of media explosion & instant replays globally
During the 2021 FEI General Assembly, Roly Owers of World Horse Welfare gave a presentation on Ethics and Horse Sport, from where the following slide is taken.
Threats to social licence?

• Not prioritising our horses’ mental and physical welfare
• Not listening and engaging with all stakeholders, including the public
• Not basing practice and rules on evidence
• Not being accountable, transparent, and ethical
• Not recognising that our responsibility applies anytime, anywhere – and lasts a lifetime
• Not proactively communicating about welfare and the importance of the horse-human partnership.

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How can we protect our social licence?

- Accept the world is changing
- Be transparent, ethical and accountable
- Ask not only ‘Can I?’ but also ‘Should I?’
- Consider the ethical basis and use of an ethical framework for decision making
- Combine experience with ethics and science to challenge the status quo
- Be ahead of public expectations on horse welfare
Change or be forced to change?
Thank you for your attention.

Questions?