



# FEI HYBRID GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## ANTWERP, BELGIUM 14-17 NOVEMBER 2021

### FEI EXTRAORDINARY & ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

Antwerp (BEL), 17 November 2021

FEI President Ingmar De Vos opened the first-ever FEI Hybrid General Assembly with a powerful speech highlighting the importance of community spirit as he took delegates through the highs and lows of the previous 12 months.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the Equine Herpes Virus outbreak in mainland Europe had required adapting rapidly to an ever-evolving status quo, and flexibility to put in place protocols that guaranteed safe events and workplaces.

"This has been draining and overwhelming at times, but as I stand here I am proud and humbled by the strength of our community and our resilience in the face of adversity", he said. "We showed true resourcefulness, but especially we showed a positive and proactive community that can move forward and embrace change.

"And this is something we have really thought about a lot in our 100<sup>th</sup> year. What do we want for our collective future, for the next generations? From sporting integrity, good governance and sustainability, how are we creating a positive legacy for the future?"

The FEI President underscored the importance of maintaining equestrian sport's social licence to operate, which he described as the most important priority on the community's 'to do list'.

"We must continue to educate the non-equestrian community about equestrian sport and our values as there is a lot of misinformation which exists out there and could threaten the integrity of the sport we love."

Thanking the community for its dedication and generosity the President said, "We can agree to disagree, we can have intense debates, but once a vote has been taken, and decisions have been made, we need to move on - Together – and this is exactly the word used to update the Olympic motto: Faster, Higher, Stronger, Together!"

The President was addressing an onsite audience of over 230 delegates in Antwerp (BEL), as well as a large online presence. A total of 117 of the 136 member National Federations (NFs) were registered, with 52 NFs attending in-person (with eight proxies) and a further 56 online (with one proxy). The required quorum was 69.

### MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE

The President asked delegates to join him in remembering cherished [members of the FEI and Olympic Family](#) we have lost in the past 12 months.

### FEI STATUTES

The Extraordinary General Assembly (EGA), required for changes to the FEI Statutes, began with the election of scrutineers for the EGA and the Ordinary General Assembly: Chair, Wendy Laeremans (BEL), and Members Badre Fackir (MAR) and Adinda Yuanita (INA).

Delegates voted to approve the modifications to the FEI Statutes, including the removal of Reining as an FEI Discipline, however, the FEI will support initiatives from National Federations to preserve the FEI Reining legacy.



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### MEMBERSHIP

The General Assembly approved the affiliation of National Federation of Nepal as an FEI Associate Member, following approval of this new category by the Extraordinary General Assembly.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

The FEI Chief Financial Officer (CFO) provided delegates with a detailed presentation on **FEI Finances**, covering the years 2020 to 2021.

The CFO reported that although the pandemic situation has improved, the 2022 budget has been prepared with a “plan for the worst and hope for the best” approach, as Covid-19 could still impact the number of events at the start of the year.

The General Assembly was informed that the reduction in total commercial revenue compared to 2019 is mainly due to cancellation of events.

Presenting a balanced budget for 2022, the CFO expressed optimism that the numbers have a potential to improve before the budget revision process that is scheduled to take place in the Spring of 2022.

Janice Shardlow, Chair of the Audit and Compliance Committee (ACC), spoke about how the FEI had risen to the challenges it faced during the past 12 months. She informed delegates that the External Auditors had reiterated that the FEI sets the standard of how an International Federation should be run financially and commented very favourably on the financial strength of the FEI during these challenging times.

The ACC Chair also highlighted that the FEI continues to perform at the very top levels of governance, as evidenced by the governance review conducted by the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF).

She advised that the FEI's organisational culture of service provider to the National Federations remains strong and the commitment to compliance with its Statutes, Regulations and the law has been maintained during yet another difficult year.

The General Assembly approved the 2020 accounts and auditors' report, discharging the Board and the Secretary General's responsibility for the 2020 accounts, as well as the revised budget for 2021, the 2022 financial charges and the 2022 budget.

### FEI RULES & REGULATIONS

The General Assembly approved the modifications to the FEI Internal Regulations as well as the FEI General Regulations. All changes can be viewed [here](#) in due course

The FEI President had proposed at the previous day's Session on the qualification systems for the Olympic and Paralympic Games Paris 2024 that there should be a separate vote on teams of three or four. National Federations voted in favour of teams of three at the 2024 Olympic Games by 70 votes to 30, with one abstention. The Paris 2024 qualification systems for Jumping, Dressage and Eventing was passed by 81 in favour, 15 against, and zero abstentions.

For the 2024 Paralympic Games, the separate vote on teams of three resulted in 79 in favour, 19 against, with zero abstentions. The Paralympic qualification system had 90 National Federations voting in favour, seven against, and zero abstentions.



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### JUMPING

The full Rules revision for Jumping has been a focal point of the Jumping Committee's activity this year.

The EHV-1 outbreak led to the cancellation of the 2020/2021 Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ in Gothenburg (SWE) and various legs of the 2021 Longines FEI Nations Cup™. The Jumping Committee's proposal to adapt the qualification system for the FEI Jumping Nations Cup™, which was approved by the FEI Board, enabled the successful organisation of the Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ Final 2021 in Barcelona (ESP).

The Jumping Committee report, which can be viewed [here](#), also highlights the Committee's evaluation of the feedback from various National Federations and Stakeholders on the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games and the qualification system for Paris 2024, the introduction of the new top level (L4) course that was introduced for Jumping Stewards in 2021, as well as various decisions taken by the FEI Board regarding the discipline's Leagues and Series.

In a separate vote, the General Assembly approved a modification to Article 236 of the FEI Jumping Rules that will mean penalties for exceeding the time allowed in all Competitions run under Table A will be one penalty for each commenced second.

The General Assembly approved the modifications to the Jumping Rules. All changes to the Jumping Rules can be viewed [here](#) in due course.

### DRESSAGE

While the Covid-19 pandemic and the EHV-1 outbreak in Mainland Europe resulted in a number of Dressage events cancelled this year, including the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final, the Committee report noted the success of Dressage at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. The new Olympic format was well accepted by the community and discussions are currently underway to see if it can be applied to other FEI Championships, as a way to avoid the huge number of competitors in the Grand Prix and to make the Championships more attractive.

The report also includes a status update on the development of a 'Code of Points' for Judges, to be used in conjunction with the Dressage Rules and Handbook, which is currently being finalised by a group of experts. A new concept for the FEI Dressage Nations Cup™ is also being worked on and will be finalised soon.

The Dressage Committee report can be viewed [here](#).

The General Assembly approved all modifications to the Dressage Rules. All changes to the Dressage Rules can be viewed [here](#) in due course.

### PARA DRESSAGE

The Para Dressage Committee was pleased with the success of the Paralympic Games in Tokyo 2020, which saw one of the best venues of all time and enabled the horses and athletes to perform at their very best, resulting in a high standard of competition and record-breaking performances

The Committee noted that Para Equestrian remains affected by the pandemic, with continued impact on athlete and horse numbers, as well as fixtures. And although there was a 2.7% increase in the number of registered athletes in 2021, the numbers are significantly behind the pre-pandemic levels of 2019.

The General Assembly was informed that a test committee is in the process of being formed and will be tasked with checking the current tests for any areas that are in need of review,



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but complete changes to the test will not be introduced until after the Paralympic Games in Paris 2024.

The Para Equestrian Committee report can be viewed [here](#).

The General Assembly approved all modifications to the Para Dressage Rules. All changes to the Para Dressage Rules can be viewed [here](#) in due course.

### EVENTING

The Eventing Committee report, which includes an update on the FEI Eventing Risk Management Programme including the 2020 Statistics that were published on 21 January 2021, can be viewed [here](#).

The Eventing Committee was pleased with the success of the Eventing competitions at the Olympic Games and with the positive feedback on the simplicity of the overall classifications and exciting sport as well as congratulations to all Olympic medallists

The Eventing Committee has agreed to the development of an FEI Eventing World Challenge, and will proceed with a pilot test in three different regions in 2022 in cooperation with the FEI Solidarity Department.

The report also provides updates on the FEI Eventing Series and Championships held in 2021 with many pandemic challenges, the FEI World Eventing Athlete Rankings, the Education programmes for Officials and the Eventing Development programme.

The General Assembly approved all modifications to the Eventing Rules. All changes to the Eventing Rules can be viewed [here](#) in due course.

### ENDURANCE

The Endurance Committee report highlights the collective efforts of the Organisers, Officials, Endurance Technical Committee members and the FEI Headquarters, in staging successful FEI Endurance Championships in 2021, despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and EHV-1.

The report also provides an update on the Hyposensitivity Tests that were conducted at all FEI Endurance Championships under the direction of the Veterinary Department, as well as an overview of the status of Education Courses for Officials and plans to create new Endurance Events to broaden the reach of the discipline.

For further information and updates from the Endurance Technical Committee, the report can be viewed [here](#).

The General Assembly approved all modifications to the Endurance Rules. All changes to the Endurance Rules can be viewed [here](#) in due course.



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### DRIVING & PARA DRIVING

The FEI Driving Committee report highlights the work done by the Committee on the Rules Revision, and an update on the FEI Driving and Para Driving Championships that took place in 2021.

The Driving Committee report can be viewed [here](#).

The General Assembly approved all modifications to the Driving and Para Driving Rules. All changes to the Driving and Para Driving Rules can be viewed [here](#) in due course.

### VAULTING

The restart of competitions has been the main focus of the Vaulting Committee this year, and 14 CVIs across CVI1\* to CVIO4\* were held in 2021. Other key areas of work for the Vaulting Committee included the finalisation of the New Concept for Free Tests, which was well received by the International Vaulting Officials Club (IVOC), and the relaxing of Qualification criteria for Championships as Vaulting athletes were unable to compete at FEI level for almost one and a half years.

The new FEI Vaulting World Cup™ Rules, published in 2020, were implemented in 2021, with many CVIs becoming FEI World Cup™ Qualifiers.

The Vaulting Committee report also highlights that Omaha (USA) has confirmed its interest in organising the FEI Vaulting World Cup™ Final in 2023.

The Vaulting Committee report can be viewed [here](#).

The General Assembly approved all modifications to the Vaulting Rules. These changes can be viewed [here](#) in due course.

### VETERINARY

The FEI Veterinary Committee report, which can be viewed [here](#), provides updates on key biosecurity measures in place following the EHV-1 outbreak in Mainland Europe, education courses for Officials Veterinarians as well as a Clean Sport overview.

The General Assembly approved all modifications to the Veterinary Regulations. These changes can be viewed [here](#) in due course.

### MEDICAL

FEI Medical Committee Chair Dr Mark Hart updated delegates on Athlete testing during 2021, Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs), Covid-19 countermeasures, and the online injury reporting system.

The Chair reported that although human anti-doping testing numbers are gradually rising to reach pre-Covid levels, the pandemic has presented some operational challenges for both in- and out- of- competition. He reminded National Federations of their critical role in helping athletes avoid doping violations and in educating them about the Prohibited List and TUEs. The Medical Committee's plans for 2022 include increased testing and the implementation of an FEI educational programme created under the new, mandatory WADA International Standard for Education (ISE).

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The Chair reminded delegates that since 1 January 2021 Protective Headgear is mandatory when riding on the show grounds for all disciplines, including Driving Athletes and Grooms in the Marathon phase. The sixth edition of the International Conference on Concussion in Sport, which is co-sponsored by the FEI, was delayed from 2020 and will take place in Amsterdam (NED) from 28-30 October 2022.

## **ATHLETES**

The FEI Athletes' Committee report is available [here](#).

## **FEI SOLIDARITY**

The FEI Solidarity Committee report from September 2020 to the end of September 2021 can be viewed [here](#).

The General Assembly approved the composition of the FEI Solidarity Committee as proposed by the FEI President, who is also Chair of the Committee.

The following members were appointed for a one-year term: Ulf Helgstrand (DEN), EEF; Sadyr Mamytov (KGZ), Group III; Catherine Ramsingh-Pierre (BAH), Group IV; Hannia Chinchilla De Wolf (CRC), Group V; Luis Miguel Soria Céspedes (CHI), Group VI; HH Prince Moulay Abdellah El Alaoui (MAR), Group VII; Mikaela Conjuangco Jaworski (PHI), Group VIII; Glenda Warburton (SWZ), Group IX.

## **NOMINATIONS**

The FEI Nominations Committee report can be viewed [here](#).

## **ELECTIONS**

### **Regional Group Chairs and Deputy Chairs**

EEF Regional Group: George Dimaras (GRE) was elected Chair, and Soenke Lauterbach (GER) Deputy Chair of the EEF Regional Group for the four-year term 2021-2025.

FEI Regional Group V: Carmen Barrera (ESA) was re-elected as Chair, and Rocio Echeverri (CRC) elected Deputy Chair of FEI Regional Group V for the four-year term 2021-2025.

### **FEI Jumping Committee Chair**

Stephan Ellenbruch (GER) was re-elected as Chair of the FEI Jumping Committee for the four-year term 2021-2025.

### **FEI Dressage Committee Chair**

Maribel Alonso (MEX) was elected as Chair of the FEI Dressage Committee for the four-year term 2021-2025, to replace outgoing Chair Frank Kemperman (NED).

The FEI Board agreed at its in-person meeting on 13 November that the appointment of the FEI Dressage Committee member for the four-year term 2021-2025 would be announced after the election of the FEI Dressage Committee Chair at the General Assembly. Peter Storr (GBR) was appointed to replace outgoing member Andrew Gardner (GBR).

### **FEI Eventing Committee Chair**

David O'Connor (USA) was re-elected as Chair of the FEI Eventing Committee for the four-year term 2021-2025.

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## **FEI Tribunal Members**

Cesar Torrente (COL) was re-elected to the FEI Tribunal for the four-year term 2021-2025. Armand Leone (USA) and Philip Cornegé (NZL) were elected as FEI Tribunal Members for the four-year term 2021-2025.

## **CLEAN SPORT**

The report from the FEI Global Equine Anti-Doping Controlled Medication Programme (EADCMP), which also includes 2021 data on the FEI Limb Sensitivity Programme, can be viewed [here](#). The FEI Veterinary Director reported on the success of the Hyposensitivity Control System, which has been rolled out across Endurance.

## **INTERNATIONAL HORSE SPORTS CONFEDERATION**

The Veterinary Director provided an update on the International Horse Sports Confederation (IHSC) taskforce for the European Animal Health Law and Brexit, which lobbied at the highest level within the EU to get the horse industry's items onto the agenda of the Brexit negotiations. As a result of the taskforce's work, the provisions for digital passports for intra-union horse movement was introduced in the Implementation Acts of the EU Animal Health Law.

Together with the OIE, the IHSC has also supported the activities set out by the Roadmaps from the six OIE-IHSC Regional Workshops.

## **OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC GAMES**

Key moments from the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games were relived through video highlights of the two events, followed by a look-back at the success of the Games by the FEI President.

The FEI Director of Games Operations then provided an update on preparations for Paris 2024. The Opening Ceremony for the Olympic Games Paris 2024 will take place on Friday 26 July, with the Games running through to 11 August. Equestrian, staged against the stunning backdrop of the Palace of Versailles, will revert to its traditional order of Eventing followed by Dressage and Jumping.

The Paralympic Games Paris 2024 kick off on 28 August and will conclude 10 days later on 8 September.

## **FEI MANAGEMENT**

The FEI Commercial Director provided an overview of the changing commercial and sponsorship landscape, made more challenging by the global pandemic and the Equine Herpes virus outbreak, demanding agility and creative solutions to keep equestrian sport relevant in tough times.

Amongst those solutions, the FEI produced creative content for broadcasters while live sport was on hold, launched the FEI Digital Advertising platform, which resulted in key sponsor-led initiatives such as the #HorseOClock campaign with FEI Top Partner Longines and the #HealthforHorses campaign with Boehringer Ingelheim. The FEI also took its first steps into the world of eSports, with the FEI eDressage World Tour and the FEI eJumping World Tour, and the new mascot, Champony. Further activities are planned for the FEI Youth Equestrian Games in Aachen (GER) next year.

Digital activations like the Olympic and Paralympic #WeDontPlay campaign generated almost 10 million engagements across the FEI's channels and 260,000 new followers.

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The full Commercial presentation is available [here](#).

The FEI Management report from each of the non-sports Departments at FEI Headquarters can be viewed [here](#).

## **FEI TRIBUNAL**

The Chair of the FEI Tribunal provided an overview of the FEI Tribunal decisions in 2021, as well as information on the Hearings, Preliminary Decisions, Agreements, CAS Appeals and Decisions. More details can be found [here](#).

## **EQUESTRIAN COMMUNITY INTEGRITY UNIT**

The report of the Equestrian Community Integrity Unit is available [here](#).

## **WORLD HORSE WELFARE**

Roly Owers, Chief Executive of the equine charity World Horse Welfare, gave an impassioned speech on the need for the equestrian community to continue protecting its social licence to operate, echoing the sentiments of the FEI President.

“The idea behind social licence is that we must be transparent, ethical and accountable for what we do. We must do right by our horses – and be seen to be doing so. If we are not, we risk losing our social licence and face dwindling support, and potential intervention by outside regulation.”

He also underscored the importance of communicating with a public that may have a very different understanding or value system from the equestrian community. “We have such a great story to tell about the horse-human partnership, about what makes our horses such impressive athletes as well as such engaging characters. We need to demonstrate that this is a true partnership based on respect, and where there is no respect, there are serious sanctions.”

The full presentation is available [here](#).

## **FEI SPORTS FORUM & GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2022**

The FEI Sports Forum 2022 will be held in Lausanne (SUI) on 25 and 26 April 2022 and there will be a special celebration event for the FEI Centenary on 26 April.

The Sessions for the FEI Sports Forum 2022 will include Olympic and Paralympic Games Regulations and Olympic Minimum Eligibility Requirements. Other topics that are being considered are FEI Event Standards; Grooms Working Group; full Rules revision of Dressage, Para Dressage and Eventing; Biosecurity and disease risk mitigation; FEI Social Media strategy and how to create synergies among the various stakeholders.

## **RECOGNITIONS**

### Outgoing FEI Chairs

- Mary Binks (KEN) – Chair of Group IX 2008-2020
- Brian Mangan (IRL) – Chair of Audit & Compliance from 2009-2020
- Frank Kemperman (NED) - Chair of Dressage Committee from 2009-2021
- Armagan Özgörkey (TUR) – FEI Board Member from 2012 – 2021
- Sven Friesecke (SUI), Chair of Reining Committee, 2015-2021

### New Board members elected at FEI General Assembly 2020

- Brigitte Mathias (NAM) – 2020-2024



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- Janice Shardlow (GBR) – 2020-2024
- Mark Hart (USA) – 2020-2024
- Amanda Bond (HKG) – 2020-2024
- Pavla Krauspe (SVK) – 2020-2024

Chairs elected at FEI GA 2021

- Chair of Dressage Committee Maribel Alonso (MEX)
- Chair of the EEF Regional Group Georges Dimaras (GRE)

Delegates who have reached 15 participations at an FEI General Assembly in 2020 and present in Antwerp:

- Soenke Lauterbach (GER)

Delegates who have reached 15 participations at an FEI General Assembly in 2021 and present in Antwerp:

- Regine Fitzner (ISV) – President of the NF
- Fahima Sebiane (ALG) – President of the NF
- Venancio Garcia Ovies (ESP) – Secretary General of the NF
- Badre Fackir (MAR) - Secretary General of the NF

Retired FEI Directors

- Debbie Riplinger, FEI Jumping Department
- Jacqueline Braissant, FEI Solidarity
- Grania Willis, FEI Communication

The FEI President offered special gifts to the President of the Belgian National Federation Stephan Detry and Secretary General Philippe De Meersman, thanking them for hosting the first-ever FEI Hybrid General Assembly in Antwerp.

### **BOARD MEETING II**

At Board Meeting II, which was held immediately after the FEI Hybrid General Assembly, the President welcomed the new Board members, George Dimaras and Maribel Alonso. FEI Veterinary Committee Chair Dr Jennifer Hall was elected FEI Executive Board member, replacing outgoing member Frank Kemperman (NED).