

**FEI BOARD MEETING**

Lausanne (SUI), 28 and 29 September 2021

The first in-person FEI Board meeting since November 2019 took place on 28 and 29 September at the FEI Headquarters. While the majority of Board members travelled to Lausanne (SUI) those unable to travel due to COVID-19 pandemic-related restrictions, joined by video conference.

The main resolutions taken by the FEI Board during these two days are summarised below:

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## **COVID-19**

### **Update from the Chair of the Medical Committee**

The Chair of the FEI Medical Committee provided a short update on the Covid-19 pandemic situation. While the pandemic situation is improving, some hotspots still persist which is why he believes it is essential to continue applying Covid-19 policies at FEI Events. The Chair also encouraged vaccinations to ensure greater resistance to new variants.

### **Para Dressage World Rankings**

The Board approved the de-freezing process of the FEI World Rankings for Para Dressage upon the recommendation of the FEI Para Equestrian Technical Committee. The process will begin on 1 October 2021, by four months at a time, meaning that the FEI Para Dressage World Rankings will be back to their normal 12-month rolling format in February 2022 (for 1 March 2022). This method will allow for combinations who are no longer active to be removed from the list, a procedure which is in line with the de-freezing system applied for the FEI Dressage World Rankings, which started on 1 August 2021.

## **EHV-1 UPDATE**

FEI Veterinary Director Göran Åkerström reported that there are currently no outbreaks related to FEI events and that the relevant EHV Bylaws which are in force on mainland Europe have been well received and complied with by the community. It was noted that 90% of the athletes and grooms competing in mainland Europe have been using the system as intended for four months. And although athletes have had to adhere to stringent bio security procedures it is important that these protocols continue to be followed to prevent future mass outbreaks.

The bylaws are currently being evaluated to determine which sections should be included in the FEI Veterinary Regulations and be applied worldwide.

As the scientific evidence of the EHV-1 vaccines is currently being evaluated, a proposal for mass vaccination has not been included in the proposed changes to the FEI Veterinary Regulations. While there has been a significant increase in the number of athletes vaccinating their horses against EHV-1, as well as a rise in EHV vaccine sales, a worldwide vaccination campaign would require greater involvement from NFs. Given the current rate of vaccinations this can only be achieved by 2025 given the large numbers of vaccines which still need to be distributed.

As announced on 16 September, sanctions for non-compliance with biosecurity measures for Events taking place on mainland Europe would be introduced as of 1 October 2021. However, the Board agreed that October would be a transition month to reinforce the required procedures within the community with sanctions to be implemented officially as of 1 November.

## **FINANCE**

The FEI Board approved the proposed budget for 2022, which will be submitted to the FEI Hybrid General Assembly for approval in November. It is a balanced budget for the first time since 2019 and highlights the sound financial health of the organisation.

The FEI Finance Director explained that a cautious approach had been adopted when evaluating the number of events for 2022 given the ongoing effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. The revenues to be generated by Events, organising dues, passports, registrations, and anti-doping have been estimated using the “plan for the worst and hope for the best” approach.

The total net revenues for 2022 were estimated at CHF 54,830,924, plus financial revenues net of CHF 150,000, with total expenses amounting to CHF 54,980,924. CHF 1,660,233 has been budgeted for FEI Solidarity projects, which is in line with the 2021 revised budget.

### **FEI HYBRID GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2021**

The Secretary General reported on preparations for the upcoming FEI Hybrid General Assembly 2021 which will take place from 14 to 17 November in Antwerp (BEL). Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and varying travel restrictions around the world, participants can attend this year’s meeting in-person or online..

### **FEI SPORTS FORUM 2022**

The Secretary General announced that the in-person FEI Sports Forum will take place in Lausanne (SUI) on 25 and 26 April 2022, and will be combined with the FEI’s Centenary year celebrations. The discussion topics for the FEI Sports Forum are being finalised and will be announced in due course.

### **INTERNATIONAL PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE**

The Secretary General thanked FEI Board members for supporting her candidacy for the Governing Board of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). A total of 26 nominees were announced by the IPC on 21 September for 12 available positions, and the campaigning period will end officially on 10 December.

Governing Board members will be voted in by representatives of National Paralympic Committees (NPC), International Sport Federations, International Organisations of Sport for the Disabled (IOSDs) and Regional Organisations. IPC President Andrew Parsons (BRA) and Vice President Duane Kale (NZL) will be running unopposed for a second term in office, and elections will take place during the IPC General Assembly in Taipei (TPE) on 12 December.

The FEI Secretary General also announced that she is running for a second term as President of the Association of Paralympic Sports Organisations (APSO). The election will take place at the APSO General Assembly on 10 December in Taipei (TPE) within the framework of the IPC General Assembly.

### **RULES REVISION 2021**

The Board reviewed the proposed changes to FEI Rules and Regulations which will be put forward to the vote of the FEI Hybrid General Assembly 2021 in November.

A brief update on discussions around the FEI Statutes, Internal and General Regulations was presented by the FEI Director of Governance and Executive Affairs Francisco Lima and FEI Legal Director Mikael Rentsch, while the main proposals and discussions around changes and updates to the FEI Discipline and Veterinary Rules were presented by the FEI Discipline Committee Chairs and Directors.

Discussions centered on the following proposals for the FEI General Regulations:

- **Blood Rule:** The Board tasked the Technical Chairs to discuss/review the blood rules within the discipline-specific Rules and Veterinary Regulations in consultation with the Legal Department.
- **Protective Headgear in Dressage:** While there is still some opposition in the Dressage community to the requirement to wear protective headgear, the Board agreed that protecting the welfare of athletes was paramount and it did not support exceptions in the application of this rule.

Proposed changes to the FEI Driving Rules and the FEI Vaulting Rules were also brought to the Board's attention.

An alternative scoring system, in which penalty points will be converted into seconds, will be tested on an optional basis for lower level CAIs in 2022. The possibility to test the new system will be referenced in the FEI Driving Rules but will not be incorporated into the Driving Rules until 2023, subject to a successful test phase and approval at the 2022 General Assembly. The Board members approved this proposal.

The Board approved the request of the FEI Vaulting Committee to postpone the implementation of a new scoring system in order to fully test it.

The final draft of all proposed Rules changes will be provided to National Federations and Stakeholders on 18 October and will be published online [here](#).

A reminder of the FEI Rules Revision process 2021:

- 1 March 2021: National Federations and Stakeholders with whom the FEI has signed an MOU have the opportunity to propose Rules changes as per the FEI Periodical Rules Revision Policy
- 12 July 2021: The FEI will provide National Federations and Stakeholders with the first draft of proposed Rules changes.
- 30 August 2021: National Federations and Stakeholders are given seven weeks to review the first draft and the proposed amendments lay down in this first draft and make comments and/or propose any changes in relation to the amendments referenced in the first draft only.
- 18 October 2021: Final draft of the proposed Rules changes to be provided to National Federations and Stakeholders.
- 16 November 2021: Rules Session.
- 17 November 2021: Voting of Rules at the General Assembly.

## **FEI SOLIDARITY**

The FEI President provided a short update on the annual meeting of the FEI Solidarity Committee in his position as Chair of the Committee. He informed the Board that only a limited number of new Solidarity projects had been approved during the September

meeting at the FEI headquarters, due to the backlog created by the Covid-19 pandemic. The President also informed the Board that Samira Asghari, the youngest ever IOC member who is from Afghanistan, is currently doing a two-month internship at the FEI and is conducting a survey measuring the development of the FEI Member NFs.

## **FEI DISCIPLINES UPDATE & RESOLUTIONS**

### **Jumping: Longines Rankings Rules**

The Board approved the Longines Rankings Rules effective 1 January 2022. The updates were made in consultation with the International Jumping Riders Club (IJRC).

### **Para Dressage**

An online Forum on the discipline will be organised in January 2022.

### **Eventing**

The FEI Eventing Nations Cup™ 2022 rules and calendar will be presented to the Board in November.

### **Driving**

The FEI Driving World Cup season 2021/22 has already received three cancellations and, as a result, has been reduced to six qualifiers. Since the FEI Driving Rules state that a season may not consist of less than six legs, the FEI Driving Committee will ask the Board for a deviation from the rules as was the case in 2020 should another cancellation occur.

### **Reining**

Based on the principles approved by the FEI Board in June (including the changes suggested by National Federations), an Agreement putting forward a number of conditions aimed at ensuring a legacy of the sport of Reining within the National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) framework has been drafted and shared with the NRHA. The NRHA had been asked to sign the Legacy Agreement before the FEI Hybrid General Assembly 2021, where National Federations will vote for the removal of Reining as an FEI discipline.

## **VETERINARY**

### **“Open Letter” Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)**

The FEI Veterinary Director provided an explanation of the open letter sent by the Federation of European Equine Veterinary Associations (FEEVA) to the Members of the European Parliament on the subject of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). AMR, which is the gradual resistance of microbes due to the incorrect use of antibiotics, is a major threat to humanity.

An initial motion submitted to the European Parliament called for the designation of antimicrobials solely for humans, but FEEVA argued this would put the health and welfare of all animals at risk and would delay recently approved measures to combat AMR (antimicrobial resistance).

The FEI has lobbied to secure the necessary antimicrobials for the treatment of severe conditions in horses in the future. FEI-approved laboratories have conducted a survey of the use of antimicrobials in FEI EADMCP samples and have found no abuse of these substances at FEI events.

The FEI Veterinary Director informed the Board that the initial motion had subsequently been rejected by the European Parliament.

### **Equine Prohibited Substances List (EPSL)**

The FEI Board approved the final proposal of changes to the Equine Prohibited Substances List (EPSL) submitted by the FEI List Group. Following proposed changes to the List in May 2021, a consultation process took place with the NFs and their feedback resulted in the withdrawal of Vitex Agnus Castus as a prohibited substance from the list. The current EPSL will be implemented on 1 January 2022.

## **INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT OF HORSES**

### **European Animal Health Law**

The FEI Veterinary Director informed the Board that the implementation of the European Animal Health Law is ongoing. The new Health Certificates for horse movement within the European Union must be used from 17 October 2021 and for arrival of horses into the European Union from 20 October 2021.

Horses competing under the jurisdiction of European Union NFs or the FEI may have a derogation from the standard requirements and be issued a 30-day Health Certificate if they are vaccinated against Equine Influenza in accordance with FEI rules and examined twice annually by a licenced veterinarian. These derogations will be allowed only if vaccinations and examinations information is uploaded into the FEI HorseApp. These module of the FEI HorseApp is currently being tested.

### **European Animal Transportation**

The EU transport legislation is currently under review and is likely to impact the transportation of competition horses across Europe. The Veterinary Director is in direct contact with the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) expert assigned to drafting advice on horse transportation for the European Commission.

## **TOKYO 2020 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES**

### **Olympic and Paralympic Debrief**

Detailed reports reviewing key organisational areas of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games were submitted to the Board. The debriefs contained information on the following topics:

- Pre-Games / competition preparation;
- Competitions;
- Competition officials;
- Medical services;
- Veterinary services;

- Logistics / Operations / Infrastructure;
- Media Operations & communications;
- Social & Digital Communications;
- Broadcasting - OBS, production / graphics / Observation;
- Legacy.

It was noted that the decision of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and the Tokyo Organising Committee to postpone the Games by one year due to the Covid-19 pandemic had led to unprecedented complexities, which could not have been anticipated.

The IOC and the IPC had developed together with the Tokyo Organisers and Japanese government Playbooks listing comprehensive countermeasures to ensure safe and secure Games for all involved. The Games had been held without spectators or anyone not essential to their delivery.

International Federations, including the FEI, had been strongly involved in the carrying out of the countermeasures through the newly created function of Covid Liaison Officer (CLO). This had resulted in substantially increasing the FEI's administrative workload.

Despite the challenging circumstances and thanks to the highest level of venue and organisational preparations, the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games and the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games had been a great success for Equestrian.

The report submitted to the Board contained the procedures, events, issues and observations recorded prior, during and after the Games and will be used as a reference for future Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The President congratulated the FEI Team on the success of the Olympic and Paralympic Games and formally thanked them for their hard work and dedication.

### **Olympic Digital Figures**

The Commercial Director presented the results of the "We Don't Play, We Ride" digital campaign, which was launched to boost the visibility of the equestrian disciplines during the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games. The objective of the campaign was to capture an audience beyond the equestrian fans currently on the FEI Digital Channels.

The FEI social media channels grew by 258.9k followers over the Olympic and Paralympic period, surpassing 3 million followers overall. The #WeDontPlay launch video generated 20 million impressions and over 2.4m video views across all channels.

Close to a million people visited FEI.org, generating 3.4 million page views in July and August 2021. A complete report will be presented to the FEI Hybrid General Assembly in November.

### **YOUTH EQUESTRIAN GAMES 2022**

The FEI updated the Board Members on the Youth Equestrian Games 2022 that have been allocated to Aachen (GER) and created to replace the Youth Olympic Games in Dakar (SEN) that were postponed until 2026.

As announced during the Board teleconference in June, the IOC had agreed to the branding of the Youth Equestrian Games and to combining the logos of Aachen, the Youth Equestrian Games and the Youth Olympic Games in the branding of the Event – bringing together all three entities in the “Spirit of the Youth Olympic Games”.

The FEI is working with the Organisers in Aachen to establish a programme that will be longer than YOG, but which will have a youth festival in the first week and then the finals during the CHIO in Aachen the following week. To ensure an experience of a lifetime, the participants in the Youth Equestrian Games will be actively involved in the opening ceremony and the IOC President has been invited to present the medals to the winners

The qualification procedure, which is through the FEI Challenge or the Junior Continental Championship, where applicable, has been approved and began in 2021.

#### **PARIS 2024**

The Director of Games Operations Tim Hadaway provided an update on planning for the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This included a briefing on the new model of delivery whereby Paris 2024 will appoint third party event delivery entities. The tender process to award the contract/s to deliver the equestrian venue at Versailles as well as venue and sport operations is underway and due to be concluded early in 2022. Equestrian will share the venue with Modern Pentathlon and all parties (Paris 2024, FEI and Modern Pentathlon International Federation UIPM) are engaged in ensuring planning for both sports is well integrated.

#### **Olympic Qualification System**

The Board had approved the proposed Paris 2024 Equestrian Qualification System for the three Olympic disciplines of Jumping, Dressage and Eventing as well as for Para Dressage in June.

The Board discussed the allocation of qualifying events in the FEI Olympic Groups and invited the relevant Groups to come up with alternatives proposals, if deemed adequate

The qualification period for Paris 2024 will start in the summer of 2022 with the World Championships in the respective disciplines.

NFs and stakeholders will be asked to submit their feedback on the Qualification system by 15 October 2021 to allow Technical Committees to review the comments before finalising the document in time for the FEI Hybrid General Assembly 2021.

The Board also took note of the suggestion put forward by the Chair of Regional Group VII to only take into consideration the competitions for the Olympic Rankings that are relevant to the Olympic Games.

#### **Paralympic Qualification System**

Following the approval of the Paris 2024 Paris Qualification System in June 2021, the Para Equestrian Technical Committee recommended changing the MERs to 64%, which was also applied to the qualification criteria for FEI Para Dressage European Championships. The Board approved the proposed change.

### **CONTINENTAL AND REGIONAL GAMES**

The Board heard a short update on various Continental and Regional Games, many of which had been greatly affected by the pandemic.

The Board was informed of the following Events that will take place in 2022-2023:

- XIX Mediterranean Games, 25 June-5 July 2022, Oran (ALG);
- XIX Asian Games, Hangzhou (CHN) - Tonglu County, Yaolin Town, 10-25 September 2022
- XII South American Games (ODESUR), Asuncion (PAR), 1-15 October 2022
- XXIV Central American & Caribbean Games (ODECABE), San Salvador (ESA), March or May 2023 TBC
- XXXII South East Asian Games, Phnom Penh (CAM), 5-15 May 2023
- XIX Pan-American Games, Santiago (CHI), 20 Oct-5 Nov 2023

### **ALLOCATION OF FEI NAMED EVENTS**

The FEI Board received a brief update on the FEI World Endurance Championship 2022 to be organised in Verona (ITA). A comprehensive site visit will be organised at the end of October as a follow up to the May 2021 test event and will involve the FEI, ITA NF, an athlete and various experts. A detailed debrief will be presented to the Board in November.

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

The Board approved the Annual Report 2020, which will be available in the [online FEI Library](#) shortly. A section dedicated to the Covid-19 pandemic and the effects it has had on the sport has been included.