

FEI BOARD MEETING

Lausanne (SUI), 15 & 16 June 2021

The main resolutions taken by the FEI Board at its video conference meeting on 15 & 16 June 2021 are summarised below:

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OPENING BY THE FEI PRESIDENT

The FEI President Ingmar De Vos opened the two-day virtual Board meeting by welcoming Members from all four corners of the globe and thanking them for their continued support, enthusiasm, flexibility and willingness to find solutions to help navigate the sport through complicated times.

The FEI President described the unity and team work among members of the community, sporting partners and sponsors as “one of the great lessons from Covid-19 pandemic and the recent EHV-1 outbreak”. And with the restart of competitions including the Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ series, and the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games set to commence in five weeks, as well as World, Regional and European Championships for seniors and youth scheduled in 2021, equestrians can look forward to a packed season of top sport!

He then went on to briefly introduce the key topics for discussion over the two-day online meeting which include the official recognition of Grooms; Olympic and Paralympic qualifications for Paris 2024; and important proposals and changes to rules which will be put to the vote at the FEI General Assembly 2021 including the future of Reining within the FEI and an updated membership structure.

FINANCE

The FEI Board approved the revisions to the revenue and expenditure forecasts for 2021, including a reduction in the overall projected loss for the 2021 by CHF 541,000 to CHF 782,000 in part due to the restart of competitions.

COVID-19

FEI Medical Committee Chair Mark Hart provided an update to the Board on the progress of vaccination programmes around the world. He stated that while the vaccination numbers are encouraging in some parts of the world, this is not the case everywhere and some continents are still lagging behind. He informed Board Members that the FEI Policy for Enhanced Competition Safety during the Covid-19 Pandemic will be reviewed after the Olympics and Paralympics and modifications will be made based on regional considerations.

He also provided an overview on the Covid-19 counter-measures that will be in place for Tokyo 2020 and the far reaching measures in place including tracking Apps as well as testing requirements for people working at the Games and his role as the FEI delegation Covid-19 Liaison Officer.

***Emergency Board Resolution: Eventing**

The Board approved the FEI Eventing Committee request to prolong the extension/derogation to the Emergency Board Resolution of 10 September 2020 until further notice should it not be possible due to travel restrictions to appoint Foreign Officials at FEI CCI4*-L and CCI3* and subject to approval by the FEI Headquarters.

EHV-1

The FEI Secretary General Sabrina Ibáñez informed Board Members that the 136 events that took place across all seven disciplines at the beginning of June 2021 are a good sign toward a progressive return to normality.

She also informed the Board that almost all of the horses that were blocked in the FEI Database following the EHV-1 outbreak in Valencia (ESP) have been unblocked and that the FEI HorseApp is being used successfully to ensure that the necessary Return to Competition measures are in place.

Following feedback from Officials and Organisers, and in order to further support the use of the App within the community, she announced the FEI IT Department would be creating an online how-to video for Officials and Organisers.

EHV-1 Relief Fund

The President provided an update on the [EHV-1 Relief Fund](#), confirming that 76.8% of the funding requests had been satisfied thanks to the generosity and remarkable solidarity of the community. He added that the Fund had now been liquidated and that a [press release](#) would be sent shortly to announce the positive repercussions of this initiative created by Emile Hendrix, Peter Charles and Frederick Goltz, receiving the full support from the community including the FEI, European Equestrian Federation, International Jumping Riders Club, Jumping Owners Club and Equestrian Organisers.

During his EHV-1 update, the FEI Veterinary Director Göran Akerström said that the restart of competition on 12 April was successful from a veterinary perspective as Organising Committees, Athletes and Officials have been extremely cooperative with the FEI HQ. PCR testing and examination on arrival, including temperature taking, has been successful at large scale events in mainland Europe. The HorseApp was and continues to be instrumental for this purpose.

Reports from laboratories, Organising Committees and Officials have been discussed weekly in the FEI Epidemiology Working Group, and there is no indication that the strain that caused the outbreak in Spain is causing any further problems. Other strains that have been discovered in small scale outbreaks, have not posed a risk to a level that would require the FEI to impose longer restrictions.

There is increased biosecurity awareness within the equestrian community and the FEI Veterinary Department is receiving more reports on positive EHV-1 cases in horses as well as various incidents of athletes and officials not taking biosecurity seriously.

While EHV-1 is endemic worldwide and will continue to be a threat around the world, basic biosecurity measures are the key to protect horses, Organising Committees and the sport. The current EHV-1 by-laws have provided the FEI with some control over the critical parts of biosecurity compliance. Amendments to the 2022 FEI Veterinary Regulations will be proposed in the next Rules review.

***Emergency Board Resolution: EHV-1 Update**

The Board approved an Emergency Board Resolution to amend EHV-1 by law number 14, which in case of increased risk for transmission of infectious disease such as EHV-1 or Equine Influenza, the FEI Veterinary Department may request enhanced biosecurity measures for horses travelling to or entering Pre-Export-Quarantine before travel, to FEI Events or Olympic-and Paralympic Games.

ELECTIONS 2021

The Secretary General announced that the FEI Nominations Committee met on 26 and 27 May and have reviewed all the applications for the open positions, which have all met the job specifications criteria. There are candidates for all the positions and the list of applicants can be found [here](#). The recommendations of the Nominations Committee will only be announced four weeks before the FEI General Assembly.

FEI SPORTS FORUM

The Secretary General also provided an update on the FEI Sports Forum which was held online on 1 and 2 June. There were 195 participants that were signed in online on the first day of the Forum and 170 participants on the second day, alongside hundreds of viewers watching the livestream on YouTube. It is hoped that the FEI Sports Forum 2022 will be held in-person next year and proposed dates will be communicated to the FEI Board and community as soon as possible.

RECOGNITION OF GROOMS

Creation of an International Grooms Association

Following the key outcomes from the Grooms session at the FEI Sports Forum, the FEI Board expressed their enthusiasm for the creation of an International Grooms Association (IGA) and financial support from the FEI in the set-up of this new representative not-for-profit body for grooms as well as governance related guidance in order to ensure the IGA meets good governance standards to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the FEI.

FEI Grooms Consultative Group

The Board Members also unanimously supported the creation of an FEI Grooms Consultative Group, Chaired by Frank Kemperman (GER) and supported by FEI Director Driving, Para Driving & Special Projects Manuel Bandeira de Mello at the FEI HQ. As Chair of the Grooms Consultative Group, Frank Kemperman will produce a draft document outlining the structure of the consultative group, its terms of reference and a list of potential members representing grooms from different disciplines as well as other stakeholders groups ensuring regional diversity.

FEI GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2021

The FEI Board approved the withdrawal of **2021 FEI General Assembly** from Johannesburg (RSA) given the evolution of Covid-19 in the country and thanked South Africa for the preparations that had been put in place. The Board also mandated the FEI Headquarters to look into the possibility of organising a hybrid General Assembly in 2021, where delegates would have the possibility of either joining online or in person. The FEI Board also approved postponing a decision on the host country for the FEI General Assembly in 2022 to a later date.

FEI SOLIDARITY

The FEI President and Chair of the FEI Solidarity Committee informed the Board that there are 200 Solidarity projects currently pending and it is hoped that they can start in 2022. He also informed the Board that only Federations that do not have pending projects will be able to be apply for new funding, in order to avoid an unmanageable number of projects starting next year. The FEI Solidarity Committee will meet on 8 September to discuss the status of the pending projects and review new applications.

The FEI Solidarity Courses for Administrators and Secretary Generals will take place in-person in October 2021 if Covid-19 regulations allow.

RULES REVISION 2021

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

Key proposals and discussions around the FEI Statutes, Internal and General Regulations were predominantly presented by FEI Legal Director Mikael Rentsch. While the main proposals and discussions around changes and updates to the FEI Discipline and Veterinary Rules were presented to the FEI Board by the FEI Discipline Committee Chairs and Directors.

For the three FEI Discipline Rules undergoing a full revision in 2021 - Jumping, Driving & Para Driving and Vaulting – initial feedback from the dedicated [Sports Forum sessions](#) was also discussed and reviewed.

The FEI legal department and FEI Committees now have until 12 July to finalise the wording and proposed modifications for the 1st Draft Rules as per the [FEI Rules Revisions Policy](#).

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 1st Draft of proposed Rules changes.
- 30 August 2021: National Federations and Stakeholders are given seven weeks to review the 1st Draft and the proposed amendments lay down in this 1st Draft and make comments and/or propose any changes in relation to the amendments referenced in the 1st Draft only.
- 18 October 2021: Final Draft of the proposed Rules changes to be provided to National Federations and Stakeholders.
- 11 November 2021: Rules Session.
- 12 November 2021: Voting of Rules at the General Assembly.

FEI DISCIPLINES UPDATE & RESOLUTIONS

Jumping

The Board approved the setup of a Working Group to conduct a cross discipline study on the per diems for Officials, to put forward a proposal for adoption in 2023.

Eventing

See Covid-19 Emergency Board Resolution for Eventing – page 3.

Board Resolutions: Driving

The Board approved two Board Resolutions:

- FEI Driving World Cup™ Rules: Proposed modifications to the FEI Driving World Cup™ Rules which state that the qualification for the Series takes place

at approved CAI3*, CAIOs, CH-EU-A4 and CH-M-A4 and that no more than two Outdoor Qualifying Competitions can be submitted by an Athlete in support of qualifying for the Series.

- Replacement of the Young Driver Category with the new U25 age category at the Driving Youth Championship to extend the Driving Youth Championships to a larger age range.

***Emergency Board Resolutions: Endurance**

The Board approved the following Emergency Board Resolutions:

- An amendment to Article 843.2 of the [FEI Endurance Rules](#) to allow up to seven Athletes and seven Horses who are duly qualified to be entered on the definite entries list for FEI Championships. These are the only Horses and Athletes that can be used for substitutions under article 846 (Substitutions). The starting team of five combinations must be selected from these seven Athletes and seven Horses.
- An extension of the Endurance qualification processes and qualification validity periods (Emergency Board Resolution from 18 November 2020) until the 31 December 2021.

Future of Reining

The Board was updated by the President and the Chair of the Reining Committee on latest consultation with National Federations and discussions that have been held with the NRHA regarding the general terms of a legacy programme for the sport.

The Board approved the general terms of this legacy programme, including the changes suggested by National Federations, and approved putting forward changes to the FEI Statutes and other FEI Rules and Regulations, which would remove Reining as an FEI discipline, to the FEI General Assembly in November 2021.

VETERINARY

Equine Prohibited Substances List

The Board approved the proposed changes to the Equine Prohibited Substances List (EPSL) to be put forward for consultation with National Federations. Following a review by the FEI List Group, a number of changes relating to the re-classification of existing substances have been made and several new substances have been proposed as additions to the List. Following consultation with the National Federations, the list of prohibited substances will be further reviewed by the FEI list Group and formally approved by the FEI Board prior to coming into effect on 1 January 2022.

Update on European Animal Health Law

The FEI Veterinary Director explained that while European Animal Health Law has been enforced since 21 April 2021, there have been delays in legislation relating to the 30-day health certificates, required when moving horses across borders. This legislation will be implemented on 21 October 2021.

These health certificates will be issued to horses going to FEI or National Federations events that have been vaccinated for Equine Influenza twice annually and that have been examined for the presence of any infectious diseases by a licensed veterinarian. The exam and vaccination must be documented through the vaccination module in the HorseApp, which will be launched by October.

The FEI Veterinary Director informed the Board that the FEI is currently reviewing the text of the implementation act for identification and registration, which allows for the use of Digital Passports. The Digital Passports will be implemented by January 2022 and more information will be provided later this year.

Update on Brexit

Brexit has had a major impact on movement from and to Great Britain. The Thoroughbred Breeding industry in particular has experienced a more than 50% decrease in movement of certain categories of horses due to the increased bureaucracy, rising costs and limited opening hours at Border Inspection Posts. All this is causing problems for the British based athletes and Organising Committees but also for European Union athletes travelling back to their countries after Events in the UK.

Irish athletes have been particularly affected by Brexit, and they are now shipping their horses directly from Ireland to France during 15 to 16 hour journey, which pose serious equine health and welfare risks.

The International Horse Sports Confederation (IHSC) Task Force continues to lobby high level ministry officials in France, Great Britain and the European Commission to ensure that horse movement issues are high priority.

TOKYO 2020 UPDATE

The deadline for Qualified Nations to submit their Certificates of Capability is 21 June. There have been some withdrawals in Dressage and Eventing which the FEI is currently in the process of reallocating. These reallocations will need to be approved by the IOC.

The venues are more or less complete and the installation of the final warm up area and reinstallation of the footing of the Gallop at the Equestrian Park is now completed.

The remaining challenges concern getting people and horses to the Olympic Games as a result of Covid-19 restrictions, including entry to Germany from the Great Britain (GBR) for the Aachen Pre-export Quarantine Centre (PQC), as well as further restrictions on individuals residing in specific countries currently considered high risk for Covid-19 such as GBR. The FEI, EEF alongside Peden Bloodstock for the equine transport logistics and all the National Federations are working closely with their NOCs, local governments and the Tokyo Organising Committee to resolve and find alternative arrangements with regards the pending issues.

There are some outstanding operational issues which are being discussed with the Organising Committee. These issues include confirming medical and catering service levels, budget and accommodation for international volunteers.

***Emergency Board Resolutions: Modifications to Olympic and Paralympic Regulations**

The Board approved two Emergency Board Resolutions*:

- Addition to Article 600 as follows:
"Given the Covid-19 related measures and requirements applicable prior to and at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games (including but not limited to the IOC's Playbooks, Rules & Regulations, the Organising Committee of the Olympic Games 2020's requirements, and the Japanese Health Authorities' requirements), not every eventuality can be provided for in these Olympic Regulations; therefore the FEI, acting through the FEI Secretary General, shall be entitled to take any appropriate emergency decision or measure in order to ensure the running and completion of any of the Competitions. For the avoidance of any doubt, any such decision or measure can include, but is not limited to, appointing reserve Official(s), replacing Official(s), changing the composition of Ground Juries and/or Veterinary Panels (including reducing the minimum number of Ground Jury members or any other requirements), approving any appropriate and necessary deviation(s) to the FEI Statutes, FEI General Regulations, Internal Regulations of the FEI and Sport Rules."
- Updates to Articles 620 and 621, further to the confirmation of the IOC and Tokyo Organizing committee to review the Horse Owner accreditations to "Horse Support Personnel" the following has been included.as follows:
Article 620 – OWNERS OF HORSES (point 1 regarding Accreditation)
"Note: Further to the Accreditation Process Update issued by the IOC and Tokyo 2020 in May 2021, this provision will not apply at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. The accreditations previously made available for owners will be issued to horse support personnel (administered by the NOCs) for essential and operational needs only."
Article 621 - ACCESS TO STABLES
*"NOC (Horse Owner) (Not more than two owners per Horse) Not applicable for horse owners; access granted to horse support personnel administered by NOC instead (see note to Article 620 above).
Reserve Horse owner Not applicable for horse owners; access granted to horse support personnel administered by NOC instead (see note to Article 620 above)."*

The corresponding changes were also made to the Paralympic Regulations.

The updated Regulations can be found in the respective [Olympic](#) and [Paralympic](#) hubs on InsideFEI in both clean and mark-up versions.

YOUTH EQUESTRIAN GAMES 2022 UPDATE

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.

They confirmed 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 365 Youth Olympic Education programme will be included in the Youth Equestrian Games and discussions are underway with Aachen to finalise the Jumping programme.

The FEI is also 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.

The qualification procedure has been approved and began in 2021.

PARIS 2024

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

The current qualification system was reviewed in view of Paris by a working group composed of the FEI President, Secretary General, FEI Chairs and Directors for Jumping, Dressage and Eventing disciplines as well as the Legal Department. It was based on the principles of Universality, participation of the best Athletes, equal number of qualification opportunities for all nations, quota places allocated to a nation and not to a specific Individual and finally the requirement for Athlete/Horse combinations of qualified Nations to obtain the required MER(s) to be eligible to participate as part of Team or as an Individual, as a separate process.

The overall quota for Equestrian disciplines at Paris 2024 remains unchanged with 200 Athletes/Horses.

A consultation process between between Group III and the EEF regarding Group C qualification will take place to explore an alternative proposal to the Jumping qualification system for Group C before being submitted to the FEI General Assembly and then to the IOC for final approval.

ALLOCATION OF FEI NAMED EVENTS

The FEI Board approved the following allocations:

FEI Championships & Finals 2023

Jumping

- FEI Jumping European Championship for Young Riders – Gorla Minore (ITA), July (exact dates TBC)
- FEI Jumping European Championship For Juniors – Gorla Minore (ITA), July (exact TBC)
- FEI Jumping European Championship For Children - Gorla Minore (ITA), July (exact dates TBC)

Dressage

- FEI Dressage European Championship U25 - Pilisjaszfalu (HUN), 11-16 July
- FEI Dressage European Championship for Young Riders - Pilisjaszfalu (HUN), 11-16 July

Eventing

- FEI Eventing European Championship for Young Riders - Montelibretti-Rome (ITA), 14-17 September

- FEI Eventing European Championship for Juniors - Montelibretti-Rome (ITA), 14-17 September

Driving

- FEI Driving World Championship for Pairs - Haras Du Pin (FRA), 27 September - 01 October

Endurance

- FEI Endurance World Championship for Young Horses - Padise (EST), 13-16 July
- FEI Endurance World Championship for Young Riders & Juniors - Castelsagrat (FRA), 2 September
- FEI Endurance Pan American Championship for Seniors & Young Riders - Santiago De Chile (CHI), 30 October – 1 November

Vaulting

- FEI Vaulting European Championship - Flyinge (SWE), 26-30 July
- FEI Vaulting World Championship for Juniors - Flyinge (SWE), 26-30 July

FEI Championships & Finals 2024

Driving

- FEI Driving World Championship for Singles - Haras Du Pin (FRA), dates TBC
- FEI Driving World Championship Four In Hand - Szilvásvárad (HUN), dates TBC

Vaulting

- FEI Vaulting World Championship - Bern (SUI), 15-21 July

FEI Series

- Longines FEI Jumping World Cup – North American League* – Live Oak, Florida (USA), 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 Seasons

* Replacement for previous Palm Beach Masters leg.

***Emergency Board Resolution:** A Resolution taken by the FEI Board as per Article 20.3 of the FEI Statutes, whereby in an Emergency Situation* the Board may, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of votes cast, pass Resolutions which are normally the prerogatives of the General Assembly. National Federations are informed of all Emergency Resolutions and those eligible to vote have up to 30 days of the date of the notice to declare their disapproval by contacting the [FEI Director Governance & Institutional Affairs](#).