

### Session 5 – FEI Key Event Requirements

FEI Director of Games Operations Tim Hadaway opened the Session with an overview and background to the FEI Event Standards project, which included a mapping exercise presented to the various FEI Technical Committees, followed by a global stakeholder survey launched in end of 2021, with the results presented at the FEI Sports Forum last year. For the final Q&A, he was joined on stage by FEI Director for Driving, Para Driving & Special Projects Manuel Bandeira de Mello and Manager for Event Classification & Sustainability Somesh Dutt.

All of this information provided the basis for the development of the 14 Key Event Requirements (KERs), which were presented to the delegates:

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| 1. Event Biosecurity                    | 8. Fire Precautions & Safety Procedures in Stables |
| 2. Veterinary Services & Facilities     | 9. Stable Area Circulation                         |
| 3. Stable Cleanliness and Disinfection  | 10. Horse Inspection                               |
| 4. Stable Security & Access Control     | 11. Medical Services                               |
| 5. Stable Size                          | 12. Field of Play                                  |
| 6. Stable Ventilation                   | 13. Adequate Availability to Training/Schooling    |
| 7. Drinking Water for Horses in Stables | 14. Footing  |

A proposed system for KERs – comprising a Regulatory and Monitoring framework, a follow-up process, and measures to address Non-Compliance – was put forward to delegates for review and consideration.

Ali Tweissi (UAE) suggested for Horse arrivals and departures to be considered as a KER. The FEI project team informed that this, as well as other aspects, were raised for inclusion as a KER during the consultation process. It was acknowledged that while the KER system will be first launched with the proposed 14 KERs, additional, KERs even at individual discipline level, could be considered in the future.

#### Regulatory framework

Tim Hadaway emphasised that the vast majority of the KERs (1-10) identified are related to horse welfare and horse & human safety, and are covered under the FEI Veterinary Regulations. Medical services (KER 11) is covered under the FEI General Regulations, while Field of Play, Adequate Availability to Training/Schooling, and Footing (KERs 12, 13, and 14) are covered under the specific regulations for FEI Disciplines.

In consultation with the FEI Discipline and FEI Veterinary Department, a majority of the overall 36 regulatory references to the KERs were deemed fit for purpose, requiring no revision. Nine regulations were identified as requiring revision.

Details on three of these nine cases were provided during the presentation. These three cases represented the different types of revisions recommended to the relevant technical committees:

Cleaning & disinfection of stables: As there are already protocols in place that cover cleaning and disinfection of stables, the proposal is to formally link this protocol to the FEI

Veterinary Regulations as an annex, and refer to it in FEI Veterinary Regulation 1008.5 therefore establishing a formal rule link to the protocol.

Stable Ventilation: As there are no protocols currently in place on stable ventilation, the proposal is for the FEI Veterinary Committee to draft a protocol that provides more clarity on requirements. This would then be included as an annex to the FEI Veterinary Regulations, and linked to rule 1998.6 b.

Field of Play: The Jumping Committee has been asked to look into minimum sizes for indoor versus outdoor arenas and if there should be varying size recommendations for different star levels of event.

Peter Bollen (BEL) and Simone Perillo (ITA) remarked that caution be exercised in defining the specifics of the KERs, so that there aren't cost implications on Organisers. The FEI project team acknowledged this while emphasising that all FEI rules are requirements to be delivered and that the proposed KERs are based on existing rules with minor clarifications/modifications and therefore no new/additional requirements; the KER system additionally provides a framework for prioritising follow-up in the case of issues arising that impact horse and/or human welfare and safety.

In terms of next steps, the relevant Technical Committees will follow-up on the rules revisions proposed ensuring that these are included for National Federation feedback by the 28 June 2023 deadline as per the Rules Revision process. Proposed rules revisions will then be voted on at the FEI General Assembly in Mexico City (MEX) in November 2023. The KER system is planned to be launched on 1 January 2024.

### **Monitoring framework**

With the relevant monitoring systems already in place, it was noted that there was no need to produce new reporting systems and that existing event reporting systems will be used, with simple "yes" or "no" questions set up for each of the 14 KERs in the relevant FEI report(s). An open text box for the relevant Official to elaborate on the response (whether positive or negative) will also be provided. Each of these "yes" or "no" questions will also mention the link to the relevant FEI regulation.

Of the 14 key requirements, nine will be reported on through the FEI Veterinary Delegate's report, one through the Chief Stewards' Report as well as the FEI Veterinary Delegate's report, and the remaining four KER requirements will be covered under various other FEI Officials Reports.

Tom Gordin (FIN) queried the potential for crossover and synergies with the Event Classification System (ECS) and raised concern that Organising Committees would be required to complete additional forms. The FEI project team explained that the KER system was based on existing not additional reporting structures. The KER system provides a more robust process to identify shortfalls in the follow-up process. With regards to determining ECS scores and feedback, the information is also compiled with existing forms and therefore there will be no repetition. The ECS could be a complimentary tool to find more information where required, as within the ECS a number of questions are asked to different

Officials and stakeholders. For example, in the updated ECS, Stable security and access control is asked to the Athletes, Grooms and Foreign Judge, in addition to the Chief Steward. If a KER is reported as not fulfilled, assuming the ECS was conducted at the said event, it could be used as part of the investigative process in determining resolution. Additionally, The FEI project team emphasised that currently the ECS is only conducted at high level events in Jumping, while the KER system will apply equally across all levels of events, across all FEI Disciplines.

Michael Stone (IRL) enquired if one or more KER questions are asked of more than one FEI Official, and what would be the course of action in the event of disagreement between the two Officials. The FEI project team informed that it was important to appropriate a primary Official with the responsibility to inform on one or more KERs. There is only one KER (Horse Inspection) which is reported upon by both the FEI Veterinary Delegate and the Chief Steward. In this case it needs to be answered as a 'Yes' by both Officials. Should there be a situation where one official answers 'Yes' and the other 'No', the concerned FEI department will need to discuss this with both Officials to determine next steps.

Tom Gordin (FIN) stressed the importance of KER monitoring be made objectively and on facts alone. The FEI project team agreed and explained that this was the underlying principle in developing the monitoring framework with the questions being Yes/No and be based on clear rule references. Therefore the opportunity for different interpretation will be minimised. It was mentioned that the rules revision process is underway and in due course we will learn where further work would be required in order to make sure that the concerned rules are absolutely clear allowing for the KER related questions to be answered objectively.

### **Follow-up Process**

Upon submission of the post-event reports, responses will be reviewed by the relevant discipline. If all the KERs are met, then the Organisers can go ahead with the next event without any action required. If one or more of the KERs have been reported as 'not met', the FEI Discipline, or the Veterinary Department will be notified so they can consult the concerned FEI Official(s) and investigate the matter further.

### **Addressing Non-Compliance**

In cases of non-compliance, formal communication will be sent to the Organising Committee highlighting the KER/s that have not been achieved. The Organisers will then be required to submit a 'formal commitment' to show how they intend to resolve the issue(s) so they can achieve the KERs in the future. Once this is accepted by the FEI Discipline Director and/or the FEI Veterinary Director, the following year's event will be included in the FEI Calendar. The concerned NF, and the relevant FEI Officials (once appointed), will be informed of any KER failure, and the proposed plan for resolution.

Should the same problem arise at the next Event, and is reported by the relevant FEI Official, the Event will be put on hold in the Calendar for the further following year. In this case the Organiser will be required to provide concrete evidence that the issues have been

resolved before being accepted back in to the Calendar. It was specified that an event is defined as the same venue delivered by the same / related Organiser.

Simone Perillo (ITA) acknowledged and supported the comments from the FEI project team that in the case of non-compliance on one or more KERs being identified just before or at the start of an event, the concerned FEI Official(s) should discuss this with the event organiser with an aim to resolve the issue(s), and not only to report non-compliance after the event.

At the end of the Q&A Soenke Lauterbach (GER) voiced support for the proposed KER system. It was acknowledged that this should provide a framework for all parties to work in partnership to improve conditions where required.

Delegates were reminded of discussions during the FEI Sports Forum 2022 concluding that certain key aspects of event delivery could not be managed through FEI regulation but best improved through promotion of best practice, guidelines and education. Such points include accommodation, catering and other such facilities and services. Work had already been done in this respect including publication of the note on 'Facilities, services and conditions for Grooms' and the 'FEI Accessibility Handbook for Event Organisers'. Both are available on the FEI Knowledgebase Event Organisers Guide at <https://knowledgebase.fei.org/>.

At the end of the presentation, Manager for Event Classification & Sustainability Somesh Dutt presented the new FEI Sustainability Handbook for Event Organisers. He explained the foundation the handbook finds in the Global Reporting Initiative Guidelines, which are presented as 144 different sustainability initiatives. The initiatives have been written in an easy-to-understand language while retaining the scientific basis. These are presented along with a rating of the actual impact they have on an event's sustainability. There is clear focus on measurement and reporting of initiatives, with suggestions on what to measure and the person/team ideally responsible for data collection. It is expected that this will render data collection practices for all organisers that could then form a basis for formulation of bespoke climate action strategies. Dutt also highlighted that the initiatives are linked to 11 different UN SDGs and are distributed across an equestrian event's life cycle, i.e., from event conceptualisation to venue wrap-up. All event organisers and national federations were requested to consult the handbook and further promote it to national events as well.