FEI SPORTS FORUM 2022
25-26 April, Lausanne (SUI)
Session 9 - FEI Eventing Rules, Full Revision
Tuesday, 26 April, 14:00 – 15:30
This session will include a presentation of the proposals for the 2023 FEI Eventing Rules revision and is divided into the following sections:

1. Main Eventing Committee proposals for discussion
2. Main proposals NFs and Stakeholders proposals for discussion
3. General Eventing Updates

Each topic will be presented followed by a Q&A session.

• Presenters: David O’Connor, Chair Eventing Technical Committee
  Geoff Sinclair, Vice Chair Eventing Technical Committee & Chair Eventing Risk Management Steering Group
  Catrin Norinder, FEI Director Eventing & Olympic
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1. Eventing Committee main proposals for discussion
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- CCI-S Jumping test: score of 20 penalties or higher = elimination, no participation in the Cross country test when jumping is before XC
- Additional MER for CCI4*/5* to ensure recent results at this level
- Reduction of Athlete Categories timeframe / adjustment of number of MERs
- Requirement of NSOs or their representative to attend annual Eventing safety meeting
- Course Designers additional responsibility on Cross Country e.g. dangerous riding sanctions
- Tack and Equipment
CCI-S Jumping test: score of 20 penalties or higher = elimination, no participation in the Cross Country test when Jumping takes place before Cross Country

Art 553.1 Scoring - Faults at Obstacles

**Rationale:** the EC suggests to introduce the same concept as several NFs, in the Short format competition to eliminate athletes with 20 or more obstacle penalties in the Jumping Test. Competence in the jumping test is part of the training and the risk management initiatives.

Q&A
Additional MER for CCI4*/5* to ensure recent results at this level

**NEW ART 518.3 CCI4* & CCI5* additional requirements**

A horse must have completed a CCI3*, (long or short) within the previous 13 months to compete in CCI4* (short or long)

A horse must have completed a CCI4*, (long or short) within the previous 13 months to compete in CCI5*

**Rationale:** the data collected for the Risk Management program clearly shows a significant increases in horse fall risk at CCI4* and CCI5* level when a horse has not competed at FEI competition for 18 months or more.

The EC proposes ‘completion’ rather than MER as it is understood in some countries it is not easy to find enough events and one runout should be allowed.

**Q&A**
Reduction of the timeframe of Athlete Categories & adjust the number of events to count

Art. 519  Athletes Categories

EC suggests to reduce the timeframe of Athlete categorisation from 8 to 4 years and to adapt the number of MERs required. FEI Athlete categories for Eventing that define a recognition of proven competence of the Athlete at a certain level.

**Rationale:** the data collected has shown that the reduction of the timeframe from 8 to 4 years and the adjustment of the number of MERs to count for each category provides a greater measure of current form.

Athletes will be categorised (Uncategorised International, D, C, B, A) according to their performance in a rolling four eight years period as defined in the following table.

- **D**  Ten (10) Fifteen (15) MER at FEI CCI-S or CCI-L at two star level; or three five (5.3) MERs at higher level.
- **C**  Ten (10) Fifteen (15) MER at FEI CCI-S or CCI-L three star level; or three five (5.3) MERs at higher level.
- **B**  Ten (10) Fifteen (15) MER at FEI CCI-S or CCI-L four star level; or three five (5.3) MERs at five star level.
- **A**  Ten (10) Fifteen (15) MER at FEI CCI-S or CCI-L four star level of which three five (5.3) at five star level.

Q&A
NSOs or their representative to attend annual safety meeting

Art. 500.2.3. National Safety Officers

The EC proposes an addition to the existing requirements of the compulsory appointment of an active NSOs in NFs organising International Eventing Events to liaise with the FEI with regards to all matters directly relating to Eventing Risk Management. Addition: the requirement of NSOs to provide annual national data reporting and attendance in person or online at the yearly Risk Management Seminar.

Rationale: Providing national data annually allows the NFs to compare their safety record against other nations. The attendance at the annual safety meeting in person or on-line is essential. This meeting provides an annual platform for distribution of information regarding Risk management rules, statistics and awareness of issues and understanding of new trends and responsibilities of NF organising Eventing.

Q&A
Course Designers responsibility on Cross Country, e.g. dangerous riding sanctions

Art. 525.1 Dangerous Riding

Further to the decision last year to integrate Course Designer in the overall monitoring of the Cross Country, the EC suggests to empower the Course Designer during Cross Country in addition to the Ground Jury and the Technical Delegate to monitor possible cases of dangerous riding and have the ability to give penalty.

**Rationale:** the course designer has excellent cross country knowledge and the best information in regard to the intention of his courses and the understanding of what is expected from the riders

**Q&A**
Tack and Equipment - Lever arms on bits

Art 539.3.2 Cross Country and Jumping Test (Saddlery)

The EC is looking into the questions in regard to tack and equipment in cooperation with a HQ working group involving veterinary and legal experts.

The EC will need to determine safety and risk management issues of tack and equipment on Cross country.

The discussion raised by stewards involve for Cross Country about the measurement of bits with a lever arm not exceeding 10 cm. It is proposed that the length of the lever arm is measured in a straight line from the **highest** point where the bit is stopped to the **lowest** point of the lever arm.

Q&A
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2. NF & Stakeholders main proposals for discussion
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- Rotation of Course Designers at events
- Monthly update of Athlete categorisation (from 6 month review)
- Dressage penalties and tiebreak
- Modernising the dress code
- Measurement of obstacles with a Spread
- Number of efforts on Cross country
- Faults at obstacles – activation of frangible device/missing a flag
- Introduction of a recommendation of remuneration of Officials at all events
Rotation of Course Designers at events

NEW 513.8.5 Course Designers

Proposal NF: limit the involvement of course designers at FEI Championships to a max of 2 consecutive years.

This discussion has been held for several years, the Eventing Committee proposes to include a gradual limitation for Course Designers in 2023 to design for a maximum six (6) consecutive years at the same venue.

Rationale: to open up for opportunities for upcoming Course designers

Q&A
Monthly update of Athlete categorisation (from 6 month review)

Art 519 Athletes Categories

Proposal from NFs: Update of categorisation as soon as results are available, to help emerging athletes to earlier reach their goal.

The EC agreed to update the categorisation on a monthly basis (from a 6 months basis) as all results needed to be validated in the FEI database, which unfortunately is often delayed. Also to be taken into account the Committees proposal to reduce the timeframe to obtain MERs to 4 years.

Proposed change to the rules:
The Athlete category will be updated according to the performances at the end of each month on 1st July and at the end of each calendar year taking into account the rolling eight and a half years (8.5) in order to take into consideration the cancellation of events due to the 2020 Covid pandemic.

Q&A
Dressage penalties and tiebreak

528.1.6 Final Classification Tie (Individual)

Proposal NF: further to discussion in regard to Dressage penalties, the EC proposed to maintain the current scoring system and not increase the decimals to 2, as to not increase cost for OCs to change scoring system.

The EC proposes in addition to review the tie break procedure to favour Dressage marks to reduce the impact of rounding up the dressage decimal to 1 decimal.

The rules would be updated as follows: In the Event of equality between two or more Athletes, the classification is decided by:

a) The best cross-country score including penalties for faults at obstacles, time penalties and any other penalty that the Athlete may have incurred on the Cross Country Test.

b) If there is still equality, the classification is decided in favour of the Athlete with the highest positive Dressage points.

b) c) If there is still equality, the classification is decided in favour of the Athlete whose cross_country time was closest to the optimum time.

Q&A
Modernising the Dress code

538.2 Dressage Test / 538.4 Jumping Test

Proposal NFs: review of Athletes dress

Delete reference to hunting dress, uniform of riding club and adopt the Dressage rules for clearer definition of coat, jacket shirt, stock or tie and boot colours allowed.

Suggested addition Dressage & Jumping Civilians:
Protective Headgear*: black, dark or NF colour
Breeches: white or off-white/beige/fawn
Stock or tie: white or off-white
Shirts may have long, short or no sleeves and must have a white collar, long-sleeved shirts must have white cuffs
Gloves: white, off-white or same colour as coat
Riding boots: long or short with matching smooth leather chaps in black or brown colour. Boots may have one contrasting colour only, around the top, heel and/or toe. **Boots must have a heel**
Tailcoats/Jackets: any single colour tailcoat or jacket (approved by the Athlete's NF) will be allowed. They must have outward facing buttons.
Striped or multi-coloured coats or jackets are not permitted
Tasteful and discreet accents, such as a collar of a different hue, modest piping or crystal decorations are acceptable on all dress items

*At 3* and below, tweed jackets are allowed

Boots to have heels to be clarified.

Q&A
Cross country fences Ground lines

547.2.7 Ground Lines

Proposal NFs: request to clarify the current rule that “Groundlines must be used on fences at all levels”.

EC proposes to add the following wording to the Cross Country Guide for Officials:
Measurement of fences:
• Base spread is measured including a solid or fixed groundline (excluding soft mulch or loose flowers)
• Ground lines include fences with a leading edge 50cm or below

Q&A
Measurement of obstacles with a Spread

547.3.4 Obstacles with Spread Only

Proposal NF: for safety reasons no open ditches should have a serious spread (as Eventing horse should not be confused as they are asked to jump into water or in-and-out of a sunken road).

The EC proposed the following review of the maximum spread of fences without height:

“For Obstacles with spread only (no height), a guard rail of minimum 60 cm must be included and specify that the lines of the depth of any such fence must be no more than 60 cm deep in the middle and the landing must be graded in to ground level and have no lip or edge that a horse may trip over.”

Q&A
Number of efforts on Cross country

547.6 Number of Jumping Efforts

Comment NFs: Not all Officials support the rules of “For all classes at all levels it is possible to have a maximum of an additional 2 efforts whereby steps and ditches do not count as Individual efforts under the certain conditions”.

The EC agreed that the implementation of this rule needed to be assessed after a year to understand its application worldwide.

Q&A
Faults at obstacles – activation of frangible device/missing a flag

548.1 Faults at obstacle - scoring

Proposal NFs: support of 4 penalties for activating a frangible pin and 7 penalties for missing a flag.

Proposal to differentiate the activation of hind (no penalties) and front leg activation of frangible fence.

The EC expressed concern over the proposal to reduce the number of penalties as both sanctions had proven to be a positive impact on the education of riders and improved the pictures on XC.

Difficulty for Fence judges to differentiate hind or front leg activation accurately.

Q&A
Introduction of a recommendation of remuneration of Officials at all events

New Article 516 – Officials Remunerations

Proposal NF: per diem for Officials to be line up with Dressage and Jumping

The EC proposes to open the discussion with NFs and OCs with a recommendation (gradual implementation) of a Per Diem of € 100 per day for Judges, Technical Delegates and Chief Stewards

Per diem = remuneration for miscellaneous costs net after relevant taxes being borne by the OC, due for all officiating days, plus one. At the discretion of the Official, the per diem may be forfeited.

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3. Updates from the Eventing Committee
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Frangible devices - updates Cross Country Guide for Officials

- Yellow clip revision
- BE reverse pin approved to open corner rear rails
- BE front pins not allowed at FEI events