

FEI ONLINE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2020

FEI GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Lausanne (SUI), 23 November 2020

The FEI Online General Assembly was held digitally today, 23 November 2020, led by President Ingmar De Vos and Secretary General Sabrina Ibáñez from the FEI Headquarters in Lausanne (SUI). All appropriate Covid-19 countermeasures, including social distancing and masks, were employed throughout the proceedings.

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OPENING BY THE PRESIDENT

In his [opening address](#) from the FEI Headquarters in Lausanne (SUI), President Ingmar De Vos noted that the FEI Online General Assembly, while not the ideal scenario, allows members to exercise their statutory rights and have their say on the future of the sport.

"Dialogue, communication and transparency are key, and this year there is no doubt we have had to compromise when it comes to our usual platforms such as the Sports Forum, our annual in-person Committee and Board Meetings and now the General Assembly," he said.

He went on to talk about the extraordinary circumstances that the sporting community has found itself in this year with the unprecedented postponement of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo.

"This has been a tough balancing act, and of course there will be an impact and there will be measures in place of which we do not yet know the details," he explained. "But I remain very confident that these Games will go ahead, that our sport will have a wonderful platform. These will definitely be the Games of hope.

"From the very beginning, our main priority at the FEI has been to mitigate the effects and find solutions to protect our community and our sport so that we can not only pick up where we left off, but also learn for the future. This has been and continues to be our focus. It has also been and continues to be an incredible team effort."

The President then spoke of measures that have been taken since the start of the pandemic.

"We were quick to react and time has shown this was very wise. We have since passed over 150 event and sport related Covid-19 resolutions - which I appreciate are not always to the liking of all. But they have been the fruit of collaboration and consensus and they reflect the needs of the community and our values. In this exercise we always have to find a balance between needs for flexibility while still preserving the integrity of our sport and providing a level playing field.

"We were and still will be faced with challenges we never imagined. And in a year where compromise, change and uncertainty have been the norm, I believe, as a community, we have responded with great resilience and perseverance."

He thanked the South African Equestrian Federation for their flexibility during these difficult times, and for their willingness to postpone their invitation to welcome delegates to Johannesburg next year for the FEI General Assembly 2021.

"We are a long way from South Africa, our original host for the FEI General Assembly 2020. But we are here together, and we have a viable solution. So, before I go any further, I want to thank the South African Equestrian Federation for their flexibility in these difficult times, and for their willingness to postpone their invitation to welcome us next year for the FEI General Assembly 2021. I believe I speak for everyone when I say we are really looking forward to it, especially as we will also be celebrating 100 years of the FEI in 2021!"

The President wrapped up his opening address with a warm note of encouragement for the community. "A major crisis requires a major response, which in itself requires good governance, and a true passion to overcome any obstacles in the way. This is the strength of our community and the building blocks to our future.

"I have been profoundly impressed by the resilience of the equestrian community when faced with adversity. And I am indebted to everyone that has contributed to finding or providing solutions this year."

MOMENT OF SILENCE

The President asked delegates to join him in remembering some cherished and important **members of the FEI Family** that we have lost in the past 12 months.

QUORUM

There were 104 National Federations registered for the FEI Online General Assembly 2020 and one proxy. At the start of the virtual meeting, 97 National Federations were online (plus one with an additional proxy) with another four National Federations joining later for a total of 102, meaning that the required quorum of 69 was met.

SCRUTINEERS

Scrutineers for the FEI Online General Assembly 2020 were elected by the membership. Sandra Wiedmer (SUI), Secretary General of the Swiss National Federation; Angharad Palin (GBR), Public Notary; and Andrew Smith (GBR) from the Equestrian Community Integrity Unit (ECIU).

Ms Wiedmer, who was elected Chair of the scrutineers, was present at FEI Headquarters overseeing management of the General Assembly session. The voting process, conducted on the **Lumi platform**, was overseen by Ms Palin and Mr Smith, who were both present at the Lumi offices in London (GBR).

MEMBERSHIP

Suspensions

The National Federations of Armenia (ARM), Azerbaijan (AZE), Cuba (CUB), Georgia (GEO), Iraq (IRQ), Mongolia (MGL), Pakistan (PAK), Palestine (PLE), Syria (SYR) and Turkmenistan (TKM) have been suspended for non-payment of dues. As soon as these National Federations have paid their fees, they will be reinstated and be members of good standing.

Ratification of UAE NF Suspension

The General Assembly ratified the FEI Board's 24 September 2020 decision to suspend the National Federation of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Following a UAE appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), the suspension for the National Federation was upheld in a CAS decision of 17 November, which stated that the Federation "is suspended with respect to all FEI disciplines from 24 September 2020 until 31 December 2020".

Exclusion

The National Federation of Brunei (BRU) has been excluded from FEI membership due to non-payment of dues for the past two years.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The FEI Chief Financial Officer (CFO) provided delegates with a detailed presentation on **FEI Finances**, covering the years 2019 to 2021.

The General Assembly was informed of an expected loss of CHF 8,229,000 for 2020 as a direct result of the Covid-19 pandemic, although this is expected to be reduced by year-end. The projected loss in revenue for the year originally stood at CHF 26,620,000, not including the IOC contribution normally distributed in an Olympic year. However, this was massively reduced by careful financial management and a rigorous reduction in total expenses of CHF 20,753,000, including temporary unemployment measures for FEI staff

as well as the postponement or cancellation of all non-essential projects. A negative performance to date on the portfolio was also included in the loss forecast for 2020.

Iris Boelhouwer, Secretary General of the Royal Dutch Equestrian Federation, requested a clarification on the potential reduction of the expected loss in 2020. The CFO responded that a precise figure would be confirmed at a later stage as there are ongoing discussions with FEI Partners about the level of reimbursement. In addition, the FEI portfolio has shown an improved performance, with a CHF 2.5 million deficit earlier in the year now down to CHF 800,000. The combination of these two factors would result in a strong reduction in the overall deficit by the end of the years.

The 2021 Budget sees a projected loss of CHF 1,323,755, but the CFO reported that this can be readily absorbed by the level of FEI reserves without endangering the existence of the FEI. The same principle of deferring non-essential projects will be continued in 2021.

The General Assembly approved the 2019 accounts and auditors' report, the Audit and Compliance Committee report, as well as the revised budget for 2020, the 2021 financial charges and the 2021 budget.

MODIFICATIONS TO THE FEI RULES AND REGULATIONS

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

Following discussions at the dedicated Sessions on the proposed amendments to the human and equine Anti-Doping Rules, the General Assembly unanimously approved the modifications to the Anti-Doping Rules for Human Athletes (ADRHA) as well as the Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations (EADCMR).

All changes to the Anti-Doping Rules for Human Athletes can be viewed [here](#) in due course.

All changes to the Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations can be viewed [here](#) in due course.

Jumping

The Jumping Committee report updates on the considerable effect the Covid-19 pandemic has had on the discipline, with multiple cancellations, including two major FEI named series Finals - the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final in Las Vegas (USA) and Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ Final in Barcelona (ESP). The ongoing global health crisis continues to impact the 2020/2021 season of the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ series, although plans are in place for alternative qualification pathways to the Final in Gothenburg (SWE).

The report, which can be viewed [here](#), also highlights the considerable impact on the FEI Invitation System - especially at the CSI2* level - as well as the Longines FEI Rankings.

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

Dressage

The Dressage Committee report includes an update on the proposal for a new format for the FEI Dressage Nations Cup™ series. This is currently with all stakeholder groups for further consideration. Should the new format be approved, the Dressage Technical Committee would like to introduce this in 2022.

In addition, the new short Grand Prix test will be introduced in the upcoming FEI World Cup™ season 2021/2022, including the Final. It has been agreed that the short Grand Prix

is of an equivalent level of difficulty to the regular Grand Prix test and will therefore count for Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MERs) and the same ranking points.

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 very happy to support the initiative of eDressage training videos for Para. In partnership with Black Horse One and SAP, the new online platform allows registered athletes to upload videos of their tests to receive feedback from extremely experienced judges, providing a valuable training support tool.

The Para Equestrian Forum, planned for Amsterdam in January 2021, has been rescheduled. Due to the postponement of the Tokyo Paralympic Games and the full Rules Revision process for the discipline next year, it has been decided to move the Forum to 2022 and it will remain in Amsterdam.

Further updates from the Para Equestrian Committee report can be viewed [here](#).

The General Assembly unanimously 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 can be viewed [here](#). The report details that measures and recommendations were reviewed including improvement of Horse injury reporting, EquiRatings® Horse Form Index studies and use, clarification of rotational and torsional fall, Frangible Standard 2.0 with the introduction of the kettlebell pendulum test and new MIM clip to be fixed at an angle (yellow clip).

The report also highlights the proposal to develop the FEI Eventing World Challenge, following discussions with the FEI Solidarity Department. The FEI Eventing World Challenge will aim to assist developing countries to reach international level.

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

Endurance

The Endurance Temporary Committee has worked closely with the FEI Information and Sports Technology Department to ensure the efficient implementation of the new Endurance Rules. From March to October 2020, the FEI IT Department has dedicated significant time and resources to support and assist end users and National Federations, as well as on IT development, data extraction and analysis, results processing and testing.

The FEI Endurance Department has also been working closely with the FEI Education Department creating online modules for the new evaluation process for FEI Officials in 2020. These online courses have been put in place to address the underperformance of Officials following the review of adverse reports from competition and observations made following Tribunal cases.

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

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

Driving & Para Driving

The FEI Driving Technical Committee report highlights the work done by the Driving Calendar Task Force and on the promotion for Officials in the discipline. In 2021 the new Driving Education System will be extended for the Level 4 category. There has also been discussion on the new Dressage tests for all categories, FEI World Cup™ Rules and the proposed implementation of a new scoring system for 2022.

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

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

Vaulting

Education has been a key focus for the FEI Vaulting Committee, with courses for Judges, Coaches and Stewards being held in various countries around the world at the beginning of the year, and particular attention on finalising the new education system. Many of the Vaulting Technical Committee members have been very active in presenting these courses, ensuring the continued development of equestrian Vaulting. The Vaulting Committee report can be viewed [here](#).

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

Reining

Discussions about the [future of Reining](#) are still ongoing. The FEI President confirmed in his opening speech that he will work with the FEI Reining Committee and the relevant National Federations to see how best to preserve the legacy of FEI Reining for the future.

The Reining Committee Report can be viewed [here](#).

Veterinary

The FEI Veterinary Committee report, which can be viewed [here](#), highlights the proposal to the trimming or removal of horse's sensory hairs a prohibited method. The report also provides an update on the Veterinary Department initiative to ensure a high level of safety, stable security and biosecurity for horses stabled at FEI Events. The project will be linked to a Jumping Department project on venue requirements.

The Veterinary Committee has confirmed the new Pony Measuring system has been successfully implemented in the EEF in cooperation with National Federations in the region. Following the introduction of a new Pony Measuring System, minor changes have been proposed to improve the system.

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

MEDICAL

The FEI Medical Committee report, which includes athlete anti-doping, athlete welfare and Enhanced Competition Safety during the Covid-19 pandemic, can be viewed [here](#).

ATHLETES

The FEI Athletes' Committee report, which includes an update from the Committee's online meeting on 7 October 2020, is available [here](#).

FEI SOLIDARITY

The FEI Solidarity Department report from September 2019 to the end of September 2020 can be viewed [here](#).

The General Assembly unanimously 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 Group; Marina Sechina (RUS), Group III; Eve van den Bol (CAY), Group IV; Hannia Chinchilla De Wolf (CRC), Group V; Pablo Tomas Mayorga (ARG), Group VI; HH Prince Moulay Abdellah El Alaoui (MAR), Group VII; Mona Tep (CAM), Group VIII; Glenda Warburton (SWZ), Group IX.

NOMINATIONS

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

ELECTIONS

Regional Group Chairs

Mark Samuel (CAN) was re-elected as Chair of FEI Regional Group IV for the four-year term 2020-2024.

Jack Huang (TPE) was re-elected as Chair of FEI Regional Group VIII for the four-year term 2020-2024.

Brigitte Mathias (NAM) was elected as Chair of FEI Regional Group IX for the four-year term 2020-2024 to replace outgoing Chair, Mary Binks (KEN).

FEI Endurance Committee Chair

Christian Lozano (FRA) was elected as Chair of the FEI Endurance Committee for the four-year term 2020-2024.

FEI Vaulting Committee Chair

Pavla Krauspe (SVK) was elected as Chair of the FEI Vaulting Committee for the four-year term 2020-2024. Following the change of the FEI Statutes FEI General Assembly 2019, the Chair of the FEI Vaulting Committee is now a full Board Member.

FEI Para Equestrian Committee Chair

Amanda Bond (HKG) was elected as Chair of the FEI Para Equestrian Committee for the four-year term 2020-2024. Following the change of the FEI Statutes FEI General Assembly 2019, the Chair of the FEI Para Equestrian Committee is now a full Board Member.

FEI Medical Committee Chair

Dr Mark Hart (USA) was elected as Chair of the FEI Medical Committee for the four-year term 2020-2024. Following the change of the FEI Statutes FEI General Assembly 2019, the Chair of the FEI Medical Committee is now a full Board Member.

FEI Audit & Compliance Committee Chair

Janice Shardlow (GBR) was elected as Chair of the FEI Audit & Compliance Committee for the four-year term 2020-2024 to replace outgoing Chair, Brian Mangan (IRL). Theola Barclay (ZAM) was elected as a Member of the FEI Audit & Compliance Committee for the remaining term of former Committee Member Janice Shardlow, 2020-2022.

Regional Group Deputy Chairs

Monique Archer (BAR) was unanimously elected as Deputy Chair of FEI Regional Group IV for the four-year term 2020-2024.

Kimihiro Okubo (JPN) was unanimously elected as Deputy Chair of FEI Regional Group VIII for the four-year term, 2020-2024.

Mary Binks (KEN) was unanimously elected as Deputy Chair of FEI Regional Group IX for the four-year term, 2020-2024.

CLEAN SPORT

The report from the FEI Global Equine Anti-Doping Controlled Medication Programme (EADCMP) can be viewed [here](#). The report notes that the high number of positive cases last year was partly due to Synephrine contamination, with a total of 15 cases in Jumping and four in Vaulting.

OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC GAMES

The progress report on the rescheduled Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, which includes an update on proposed Covid-19 countermeasures and the current eligibility status of National Federations for both Games, can be found [here](#).

ALLOCATION OF FEI SERIES, CHAMPIONSHIPS & FINALS

Delegates were informed of allocations made by the FEI Board at its [online meeting](#) of 18 November 2020.

FEI MANAGEMENT

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

FEI TRIBUNAL

The FEI Tribunal report, which reflects the reduction in the number of cases submitted due to the pandemic, is available [here](#).

EQUESTRIAN COMMUNITY INTEGRITY UNIT

The report from the Equestrian Community Integrity Unit (ECIU) also reflects a reduction in output over the past 12-month cycle due to the impact of the pandemic. Although there have been no major events for the ECIU to attend, the Unit has continued to operate the Integrity Hotline and has conducted a range of investigations throughout 2020.

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

WORLD HORSE WELFARE

In a [video address](#) to the FEI General Assembly, the Chief Executive of World Horse Welfare talked through the key points of the charity's new [four-year strategy](#). He highlighted that horse sport needs to continue to work hard to maintain its social licence to operate as some sectors of the public are increasingly questioning the validity of equestrian sport, particularly in terms of the treatment of horses.

He stressed the importance of ensuring that competition rules and guidance are regularly reviewed, that any changes are made based on sound evidence and that the community acts decisively when regulations are not respected. He also stated the importance of communication and the need to actively demonstrate to the public everything the community does to consider the needs of sport horses.

FEI SPORTS FORUM & GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2021

The FEI Sports Forum 2021 is set to be held on 19-20 April, with both in-person and online platforms being considered given the ongoing uncertainty around the Covid-19 pandemic. Topics currently being considered include sessions on Rules Revisions for Jumping, Minimum Requirements for International Events, formal integration of grooms as a stakeholder group in the FEI Family, and FEI Calendar processes.

Johannesburg (RSA) was due to be the host this year's in-person FEI General Assembly, but the pandemic resulted in a need to move online for the first time in FEI history. As a result, the FEI General Assembly 2021 has been re-allocated to the South African Equestrian Federation and will be held in Johannesburg from 13-16 November.

CLOSING BY THE PRESIDENT

The President expressed his heartfelt thanks to all the outgoing members from the FEI Board and Technical Committees in his [closing speech](#), making special mention of Group IX Chair Mary Binks, Chair of the Audit & Compliance Committee Brian Mangan and Vaulting Committee Chair John Eccles.

He also expressed his gratitude to the Endurance Temporary Committee Chair Sarah Coombs and her Committee members, thanking them for "their courage and determination when it came to identifying and tackling the real issues of this discipline and, with the creation of the new rules we approved last year, to raise the sport to a new level and help forge a new path for Endurance based on the shared values of the global equestrian family. This is a true legacy they leave behind."

Looking ahead to the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo next year, the President said: "We need to show how unique we are in the sporting landscape. From the incredible horsemanship in the arena to the inspired teamwork behind the scenes making it all happen.

"There is no sport that compares to equestrian and it is our responsibility and our duty to make sure we present the very best of who we are and what we are all about. From Tokyo to Paris to LA, we have to keep our finger on the pulse and deliver cutting-edge sport, from production to formats and rules. This is our mission."

He also reminded delegates that the FEI will be celebrating 100 Years in 2021. "We are a long way from 1921 when eight founding members - Belgium, Denmark, France, Italy, Japan, Norway, Sweden and the United States of America - came together to organise the sport and formulate international rules and protocols. In the meantime a lot has changed. But we have never been scared of a challenge - and together with all 137 affiliated National Federation Members - we can continue to set ambitious goals."

The President closed the FEI Online General Assembly on an optimistic note. "The resilience, determination and passion over these past few months has been inspiring and I am grateful to everyone for their resourcefulness and ability to adapt. This has been a team effort - we have had to think out of the box and we have had to be quick on our feet. And this is remarkable when you think about it. We are nearly 100 years old - so whoever said you can't teach an old dog new tricks was wrong. You can and we are living proof!"