



**FEI EVENTING RISK MANAGEMENT SEMINAR**

**Rome (ITA), 26-27 January 2013**

**REPORT**

34 Eventing National Safety Officers (NSOs) and Representatives from 22 NFs (AUS, AUT, BRA, CAN, CZE, DEN, ESP, EST, FIN, FRA, GBR, GER, IRL, ITA, NED, NOR, POL, POR, SUI, SVK, SWE, USA – (see *participants list annex I*) met in Rome (ITA) for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Eventing Risk Management Seminar.

**RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSIONS of the 2013 Eventing Risk management Seminar**

**1. INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS CONCLUSIONS:**

- The increase of the number competitions should not compromise the quality.
- Improving the preparation of riders and horses is the priority to reduce the falls.
- Quality of data is improving as the statistic are more comprehensive.
- The trend is a reduction in the number of injuries but a slight increase of number of falls
- The following information was added to International Statistics for 2013 data:
  - Fall ratio split per country
  - Airbag vest statistics
  - Yellow Cards to be included (per countries, comparable per year on numbers, reasons).

**2. NATIONAL STATISTICS CONCLUSIONS:**

- The number of national statistics collected from Eventing nations has increased in 2012 from 24 in 2010 (30 in 2011) Consistent and comparable data from year to year was emphasised.

**3. CONCUSSION AND MEDICAL CARD**

- Explanation of the consequences of concussion from falls was to be promoted . A specific page to be created from the Medical Committee on FEI web-site including concussion assessment for Medical Officers.
- A reference to concussion was to be made in the Eventing Memorandum to help the Fence judges and Medical staff's awareness of potential concussion.
- Medical Committee to advise other disciplines on Concussion (as not only a concern for Eventing).
- Improving fence design and riding standards was a key area to reduce head impacts.
- Proposal to replace the current Medical Cards by accurate contact details for each rider to be collected electronically at each competition.
- Additional column "to be notified" to be added in the event of a concussion to the TD Report FEI Report Form – Eventing – Falls – Athletes (Fall Recap page).

**4. AIRBAG VEST**

- For the time being, no recommendation for the airbag vest to be made compulsory at International competitions until manufacturers develop a standard and research for improvements was still ongoing.

**5. CROSS COUNTRY STYLE COMPETITIONS**

- Cross Country Style competitions were a good way of educating riders and young horses with more Cross Country experience.



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**6. 2013 EVENTING RULES**

- Summary of changes in the Eventing Rules can be found on the FEI website <http://www.fei.org/disciplines/eventing/rules>

**7. NATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MERS**

- MER National Requirements would be collected by FEI to be shared on the FEI website for easy reference for NFs.

**8. OFFICIALS RISK MANAGEMENT DVD**

- The DVD focused on Dangerous Riding would be further improved and finalized as soon as possible to be made available for Education of Officials and serve as baseline for coaches, riders etc.

**9. INDOOR CROSS COUNTRY**

- Recommendation/guidelines were to be proposed by the FEI for the organization of Indoor Cross Country Competitions. National Federations had to take responsibility. Eventing Committee to finalize the recommendations/guidelines.

**10. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEXT SEMINAR**

- Reports of NSO, case studies of one good and one bad experience in national risk management
- Some NFs to compare their first draft of Risk management proposals (during first NSO Seminar in 2008) with their current situation (evolution, change of vision, etc)
- More details on the statistic and cross reference, Yellow Cards, Airbag vests, fall ratio per country (comparison between International and National ratio).
- National watch list (Dangerous riding, concussions), how to share information on International level
- Review of National qualification requirements
- Follow up on frangible / deformable devices
- Fall training
- Cross Country training
- Follow up of Cross Country indoor & style competitions
- Cross Country Control Centre recommendations
- Risk Management Plan at low level competitions (1&2 star)
- Veterinary topic
- Good picture of the sport for public and media
- National Education of Officials
- Minimum requirements of medical care at events. What's achievable and what happens in other countries.
- Topics to be sent to participants in June 2014

**11. 2014 EVENTING NSO SEMINAR** date: 25-26 January 2014, location TBC

<b>AGENDA – 2013 FEI EVENTING RISK MANAGEMENT SEMINAR</b>	
List of participants	Annex I



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<b>1.</b>	<b>Statistics</b> - Review of International statistics – benchmarking	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Statistics</b> - Review of National statistics – benchmarking	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Risk Management Officials DVD</b> – Jonathan Clissold	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Concussion and Medical Card</b> – Peter Whitehead (Chair FEI Medical Committee)	Annex II
<b>5.</b>	<b>National Federations Presentations</b>	
<b>5.1</b>	• <b>AUS</b> presentation: Risk Management procedures at CCI4* Adelaide	Annex III
<b>5.2</b>	• <b>FRA</b> presentation Cross Country indoor	
<b>5.3</b>	• <b>ITA</b> presentation Active Risk Management	Annex IV
<b>5.4</b>	• <b>NED</b> presentation air-vests at FEI competitions	Annex V
<b>5.5</b>	• <b>SWE</b> presentation	Annex VI
<b>5.6</b>	• <b>GBR</b> presentation	Annex VII
<b>5.7</b>	• <b>GER &amp; SWE</b> presentation Style Cross Country	Annex VIII
<b>6.</b>	<b>2013 Eventing Rules Revision</b> – relation between the new rules (principles of qualification/responsibility) and Eventing Risk Management	Annex on website
<b>7.</b>	<b>NFs Requirements for MERs</b>	Annex to be published
<b>8.</b>	<b>WORKING GROUPS</b>	
	8.1 Cross Country Indoor	
	8.2 Medical topic	
	8.3 Officials Risk Management DVD review	
<b>9.</b>	<b>Update on Frangible / Deformable Devices</b>	
<b>10.</b>	<b>Feedback from participants and recommendations for next seminar</b>	
<b>11.</b>	<b>2014 NSO Seminar</b>	

The Eventing Risk Management Seminar Director welcomed and thanked all participants for attending this seminar. The Italian National Federation was specially thanked for accepting to host this seminar in Rome.

The objective of the seminar was for NFs to share experiences and views and allow each participant to take ideas and different concepts back home.

**1. REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS** - presentation G. Della Chiesa

The collection of International data has been ongoing since 2004. Nine years of data were now available and the collection of information had now spread down to the National Federations level.

The annual statistics was the best tool the sport had to allow a long term vision of the sport and limit emotional reactions to accidents.

- After a peak in the total number of FEI competitions in 2011 (due to the pre-Olympic year), the number of competitions had decreased from 567 in 2011 to 524 in 2012. However, the Eventing sport had grown and increased by 59 % in 9 years.



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- Distribution of starters per level remained mainly unchanged with an average of 43,3 % for one star, 36,2% for two star, 19,1% for three star and 1,3% for four star.

It is important to note that approximately 80% of the competitions were held at 1 and 2 star level.

The distribution of starters between formats showed an average of: 63,0% for Short Format (CICs) and 37,0 % for Long Format (CCIs)

- Total number of starters increased in 9 years by 28,4% from 11'644 in 2004 to 14'950 in 2012 (this figure will increase as end January 2013, 31 competitions were still to be entered in the database involving approximately 800 starters).

Distribution of starters per star level remained relatively unchanged with an average of:

47,9% for one star,  
33,6% for two star,  
16,3% for three star and  
2,1% for four star.

The starters at one star level represented almost 50% of the total number of starters in FEI competitions and together with the two star level took up 80% of the total number of starters.

Average number of starters (29 in 2012) has remained quite stable for all levels with an average of 36 for one star, 30 for two star, 28 for three star and 51 for four star.

The distribution of starters between formats showed a stabilized trend of approximately 62% for Short Format (CICs) and 38% for Long Format (CCIs).

- For 2012, the overall percentage of falls had increased compared to previous years still remaining lower than the average 2004-2008. The average of 2009-2012 was just over the target set within the parameters of the Risk Management Program. However the percent of falls needed to **be closely monitored specifically at one and four star levels.**

The fulfillment of the target set for the average of the period 2009-2013 looked reasonably achievable providing the trend shown in the first four years (2009-2012) could be maintained and slightly lowered for 2013. All indicators, a part from the one star level, appeared within target after the first four years.

The distribution of falls per competition format showed a clear trend in having a higher percentage of falls in Long Format (CCIs) with an average for the period 2004 – 2012 of 4,96% for Short Format (CICs) and 6,88% for Long Format (CCIs). This meant a difference of having a faller every 20 or 15 starters..

The number of falls on the flat was lower than for 2010 and 2011 and was closer to the average over the period that was of 5 %. In 2012, 41 fall out of 843 (4,86%). This was probably due to the quality of the information received.

- The number of horse falls had increased in the last two years and needed to be carefully monitored, the distribution between non rotational and rotational showed an increase of rotational horse falls, however the percentage remained lower than the average of the period 2004-2012.



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- The percentage of rotational horse falls (higher risk of injuries for horse and rider) had decreased from 0,51 horse fall every 100 starters (1 rotational horse fall every 197 starters) in 2004 to 0,27 rotational horse fall every 100 starters (1 rotational horse fall every 301 starters) in 2012.

The increase of competitions should not compromise the quality of competitions.

Improving the preparation of riders and horses was the priority to improve the percentage of falls. The education of riders was very important and their acceptance to take responsibility for their riding, withdrawing from a competition rather than being eliminated was paramount. This evolution was reflected in the results.

The quality of data had improved and the tendency showed that the number of injuries had reduced.

## **2. REVIEW OF NATIONAL STATISTICS – BENCHMARKING - G. was Della Chiesa**

The necessity of understanding the sport from a National perspective and producing consistent and comparable national data from year to year was stressed. When an accident occurred there was no differentiation by the public and media between National or International competitions.

The tables presented contained a breakdown of the number of competitions by grouping the NFs in 3 groups: more than 500 competitions, between 50 and 500 competitions and less than 50 competitions.

The number of starters were also divided by National Federations with more than 10'000 starters, between 1'000 and 10'000 and less than 1'000 starters.

Across the five major nations (AUS, FRA, GER, GBR, USA) Great Britain had the highest percentage of falls (2,65%), for the medium and smaller nations, Austria and Belarus had the highest number of falls with 4,36 % and 4,62 %. The percentage for international competitions (FEI) was 5,64 %.

The smaller nations had less opportunities for riders to practise in national competitions and they were sometimes sent out to International competitions too soon which could explain the high level of falls at FEI 1\* level.

Adrienne Hofer (DEN) and Lars Christensson (SWE) asked that for next year a comparison be made between International and National statistics per country.

## **3. RISK MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS DVD – Jonathan Clissold GBR NSO**

To confirm Eventing in the Olympic Movement, the sport had to work on presenting acceptable pictures to the wider public. The objective of the Risk Management Officials DVD was to help riders, trainers and officials understand a common vision of what constitutes Dangerous riding. The definition of Dangerous riding (Eventing Rules, Art 524) stated clearly:

“Any Athlete who, at any time during the Competition deliberately or unintentionally by incompetence is exposing himself, his Horse or any third party to a higher risk than what is strictly inherent to the nature of the Competition”.

Jonathan Clissold presented the Risk Management Officials DVD which was composed of 11 chapters covering Refusals, Run outs, Falls, Whips and Spurs, Out of control, Too fast to a fence, Standing off a fence, Tired horse, Jumping from a standstill, Unbalanced riding and Frangible pins.



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The participants agreed that the rider awareness had to be enhanced; it was mentioned that the high level riders were more difficult to approach in the opinion of the less experienced Officials.

The horse falls and rotational falls needed be to explained better to the fence judges to enable better data quality in the reports.

Regarding the "Out of control chapter", it was felt when judging a situation that the intention of the rider should not be taken into account and incompetent riding was as bad as dangerous riding.

It was agreed that a good example of a jump over a fence next to a bad example would make comparison easier. Examples of good riding in a difficult situation would also be added to the DVD. There was only one clip of a horse going too slowly therefore more would be added if possible.

A selection of short video sequences would also be included in the DVD to evaluate participants.

A discussion took place if riders faces should be erased, it was decided to keep the riders identity so they would not make them look like the bad guys.

The timeline for finishing the DVD was beginning of March in time for the first Officials Seminar.

**4. CONCUSSION AND MEDICAL CARD****Annex II****Peter Whitehead, Chair FEI Medical Committee Member**

Peter Whitehead gave a presentation mainly on the concussion to raise the awareness of this medical condition. He explained that a Concussion Symposium took place in Zurich in November 2012 which was attended by several Sport Federations on the initiative of the IOC and the involvement of the FEI.

Concussion could be caused by a direct blow but also by an "impulsive" force (from a sudden jolting). Riders who had not hit the ground could also be concussed. The onset of symptoms could be rapid or slow. Symptoms could include loss of consciousness, seizure or convulsion, headaches, pressure in head, neck pain, nausea or vomiting, dizziness, irritability or emotional behaviour, drowsiness, confusion, light sensitivity, difficulty remembering and or concentrating.

Balance was an important test and various questions could be asked to determine whether a rider was concussed.

Concussion was the most common form of mild Traumatic Brain Injury (mTBI) however, this expression is an oxymoron and should not be used. All brain trauma was influential and could be cumulative.

Sport Concussion was most common in young people which was an issue. Three concussions could result in 5 times greater risk of mild cognitive impairment, 3 times greater risk of memory problems and 3 times greater risk of depression. Chronic symptoms range from Parkinson's Disease to dementia and greater sensitivity to alcohol.

The Medical Officer's function had been made easier since the change of rules to elimination after one fall . It was now important to promote the Eventing Official's awareness of potential concussion as the Medical Officer was not in a position to see all falls on a course.

It was agreed to create a page on the FEI website to post medical information for medical officers, including concussion assessment.



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The involvement of riders, officials, medical staff was very important, the medical staff needed to be suspicious of concussion especially in certain mechanisms of falls.

Continuous work on fence design and riding standards was also a key area to try reduce falls in general and head impacts.

A culture of education was also important. In Australian football the use of SCAT2 (Sport Concussion Assessment Tool) offered a standardized method of evaluating athletes, it enabled sideline assessment. Cogsport testing was also used by certain National Federations (USA), it was an easy to use series of computer-based neuropsychological tests designed for use by physicians to detect mild cognitive changes in concussed athletes. The American Centre of Disease Control had produced guidelines ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)).

Athletes will react differently from concussion from the same impact. Most will not suffer injury however, they must be removed from competition. If a rider has been concussed he will be predisposed to get further concussion or injury as judgment may be impaired.

The collection of all medical data from events needed to be efficient and standardised.

Most riders were back to sport within 2 weeks, time periods were not (could not) established by the FEI. The British Eventing system required that the Technical Delegate fill in a form and send it back to British Eventing which entered the rider in the database. If the athlete had been knocked out, he was not able to compete for 7, 14 or 21 days depending on how long he was unconscious. Organisers then received a list of suspended riders before the competition to ensure they were not entered. Riders needed to have a general practitioner note stating they are cleared to compete again. In addition, any rider going to hospital in an ambulance was automatically suspended.

It was felt that concussion had to be mentioned in the FEI Eventing Memorandum to help the Fence judges and Medical staff's awareness of potential concussion. Other disciplines needed to line-up.

## **5. NATIONAL FEDERATIONS PRESENTATIONS**

### **5.1 AUS NF Representative – Wayne Copping**

**Annex III**

#### ***Topic :Risk Management Procedures at CCI4\* Adelaide***

The Risk Management Procedures at Adelaide CCI4\* were presented. The procedures included extra preparation due to the location in a city parkland of the 5<sup>th</sup> largest city in Australia.

An emergency Management Plan linked to outside potential problems had been developed, dealing with issues related to traffic as two main roads went through the park, and public. The CCI4\* Adelaide Risk Management Policy comprised 5 sections, Overall Risk Management Policy, OH&S (Occupational Health, Safety) Policy incorporating the Risk Identification Strategy and Standard Procedures, Equestrian Crisis Management Plan, Equestrian Risk Management Plan, Emergency Management Plan.

### **5.2 FRA NF – NF Representative – Laurent Bousquet**

#### ***Topic : Indoor Cross Country***

Laurent Bousquet expressed concern over the growing amount of indoor Cross Country courses at Show Jumping shows such as Stuttgart, Amsterdam, Bordeaux Lyon, Cardiff, etc, developing without International Eventing requirements. Both good and bad experiences had been observed.



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These competitions were put on by the organisers for promotion and/or show and not run under the FEI Eventing Rules. Managing the risk at an indoor competition was not the same as for outdoor courses. The concern was if an accident occurred at such a competition it would reflect badly on Eventing.

It was questioned whether it was better to be involved with these competitions or not as the Organisers and Public had great interest for these type of competitions.

*Discussion:*

*Gert Naber (NED) stated that these competitions could not be ignored and responsibility should be taken.*

*Jonathan Clissold (GBR) explained that Express Eventing concept still took place but British Eventing was not involved with it.*

*Bob Powles (AUS) felt it was dangerous to allow aspects of Eventing be taken over by other discipline organiser.*

*Lars Christensson (SWE) mentioned that should a well known eventer have a bad fall it would be very difficult for publicity.*

*Kalle Nykänen (FIN) three indoor competitions were organised in Finland, run with Eventing Officials.*

*Siret Saks (EST) In Estonia during the winter, indoor competitions were the only possibility due to the meteorological conditions.*

*Wayne Copping (AUS) Three to four competitions per year were run in Australia with a final at Equitana. Dressage, followed by fixed fences (1\*-2\*) followed by a speed section of show jumps which included a joker fence (1m40). Riders had to be 2 star level.*

*Philine Ganders (GER) explained that style competitions were organised in Germany, not against the clock. Rules had been established for the kind of fences allowed.*

The general feeling was that speed classes should not involve fixed fences.

A working group was set for this topic (see conclusions below)

**5.3 ITA NF – Representative – Mauro Checcoli****Annex IV****Topic : Active Risk Management**

Mauro Checcoli, Olympic Eventing gold medallist in Tokyo (1964) and former member of the Eventing Committee gave a presentation on managing risk through the education of riders.

There were two types of safety: Passive Safety, related to Cross Country design and development, fence building and Active Safety related to quality of horse and rider, training.

It was explained that most attention nowadays was focused on passive safety and competence had increased.

Mr Checcoli explained that he was a pure example of the Caprilli school of equitation which was based on teaching the horse to solve the problems. The training included long period of trotting to allow the horse to become totally in balance. The aim was for the rider to be completely still and rely on the horse following their training together. Horse had to be trained to be technically correct over a jump. He explained that no horse wanted to fall as they had a strong sense of self-preservation.



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When watching the World Cup Jumping final, all the top 30 riders all rode with their horses neck extended and in balance with a consistent footing. The speed in between fences was very high and could be compared to speed in steeplechase. There were some clear rounds and many 4 faults, but rarely more due to their training. What happened in Show Jumping should also be developed in Eventing. Focussing on this training was the only way of minimising risk.

**5.4 NED NF NSO – Teun Platenkamp****Annex V*****Topic : Air-vests at FEI competitions***

The rotational fall of rider Coral Keen (GBR) on fence 19AB, at CCI3\* Boekelo (NED) in 2012 was explained. The horse fell on top of the rider who was wearing an airbag vest, the rider was sent to hospital but was back on the competition ground the next day without any fractures.

A discussion if wearing airbag vests should be made compulsory at FEI events took place and the participants were of mixed opinions. An informal raise of hands was done and 10 participants were in favour, 20 were not in favour of compulsory airbag vests. Certain riders clearly felt that the airbag vest restricted their movements, whilst others wouldn't want to ride without one.

There were cases where the airbag vest could have worsened the injury of some riders. Some situations could be dangerous especially when they were not fastened or adjusted properly. A situation was reported by Marius Marro (SUI NSO) where a rider had almost strangled with the cord from the bib once the airbag vest had blown up.

Bohumil Rejnek (CZE NSO) also mentioned that certain riders could hardly breathe when airbag vests blew up.

The real issue was that manufacturers had not been able to develop a standard for the airbag vests and research for improvements was still ongoing.

It was felt by the group that for the time being, it should not be recommended that the airbag vest be made compulsory at International competitions.

**5.5 SWE NF NSO – Lars Christensson and Christina Klingspor****Annex VI*****Topic : Changes and actions taken for the Safety of the Sport***

Lars Christensson and Christina Klingspor presented the National statistics and explained the recent rule changes in Swedish Eventing.

The process started in 2007 after the first fatal accident occurred. The ensuing steps taken were reactive through implementing more difficult qualification and focussing on the sport's negative elements. 50 % of the pony riders were lost in the process and it had negative results on organisers and owners. The sport was back on a positive wave after Sara Algotsson's silver medal at the Olympic Games.

The Green Card system was explained. Riders had to go on a course before beginning to Event. To start Cross Country each rider had to have a written approval from their trainer mentioning they were fit to start. Authorisation was also necessary to start competing at 1\* level.

Style competition requirements have been added to the Rule book for Cross Country.



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Emphasis had been put on the education of National Officials, such courses take place every year and a refresher course is required every second year. In 2013, the focus will be on the Cross country controllers, and a checklist will be developed.

The FEI Risk Management Plan has been adapted to Swedish sport and . National Rules lined up with FEI Rules.

The importance of Risk Management versus media was highlighted. At the Malmo competition in 2012 a horse had a fatal fall in a ditch and the communication through the press officer to the media was well handled. Holding statements were provided throughout the day and the next day in the press only nice pictures of the competition were published and there was only a small mention of the accident.

**5.6 GBR NF NSO – Jonathan Clissold****Annex VII*****Topic : New swinging machine (impactor)***

Jonathan Clissold showed a short video clip of the new swinging machine (impactor) for testing frangible devices. TRL (Transport Research Laboratory) was to certify the machine before tests could be carried out on frangible pins and the Dutch pole. The machine was available to other Federations to test devices if necessary.

**5.7 GER NF Representative – Philine Ganders and****SWE NF NSO – Lars Christensson****Annex VIII*****Topic : Cross Country Style Competition***

The Cross Country style competitions have been successfully developed in Germany and Sweden.

Lars Christensson (SWE) explained that there were good results from these competitions in Germany and the Swedish riders who had participated thought it education for Risk Management and experience for Riders. Swedish Judges have been to Germany for a course and competitions started in Sweden.. The judge role was important as they needed to understand what to look for, it was not about "pretty" riding but riders needed to adjust their speed and line.

These competitions could be included as part of qualifying events to enlarge the number of events in Sweden.

Philine Ganders (GER) mentioned that in Germany 3 different types of Cross Country style competitions were organised, a pure Cross Country style competition, a Cross Country phase with style marks and a Young Horse style competition which counted towards the Bundeschampionnat. In the pure style Cross County which was mainly for Young Riders, the Cross Country was run in a big field with all fences in view of the Judges, speed was reduced to 450-500 m/min with one rider on course at a time. Deductions were done for refusals or exceeding the time.

Judges were given a comment sheet for style with 3 sections: approaching the fences (speed, line); position and seat (how well balanced they were, suitable length of stirrups, hands and whether their seat was elastic); effectiveness of the aids (were they in control, with the horse in the front of the leg, and did they have a 'feel' and were they using the aids correctly). One mark was given for all three sections and then the deductions for refusals, etc, were taken into account for a final score.

Marks were given out over the loudspeaker with comments so that everyone could learn. This competition could also be combined with a dressage phase.



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In the horse style competition, it was judged on 3 things: ride ability, suitability and education (was it on the right track?); quality of jumping and quality of canter.

*Comments:*

*Friedrich Otto-Erley (GER): It meant that riders could get more experience; every jump increased their confidence allowing riders to improve. When younger riders and horses came to the real sport they had jumped all sorts of fences in different competitions without increasing the difficulty to quickly. 223 competitions with 4,000 competitors were held in 2012 with 6 different levels, these can count as qualifications for the next level. For young show jumpers 8,089 competitions were organised and a certain amount of style competitions for young horses and young riders have to be organised at every show. In dressage, there are more than 3,000 competitions.*

*Lars Christensson (SWE): It was questioned whether riders were specialising too early and these competitions could be open for 4-year-olds.*

*Giuseppe Della Chiesa: More ways of creating the cross-country experience for young horses must be found. Maybe other nations will pick up from it.*

**6. 2013 EVENTING RULE REVISION**

**Annex published on FEI website**

Giuseppe Della Chiesa gave an overview of the 2013 Rule changes concentrating on the principles related to Risk Management. The sport had moved away from the surviving attitude. The progressive training of the horses through the levels was essential.

- The responsibilities had been shifted to where they could be enforced. Articles 500.2.1, 500.2.2, related to the responsibilities of Athletes and National Federations.
- The compulsory appointment of a National Safety Officer was mentioned in Article 500.2.3
- The age of horses had been raised to six years old (was 5 years old) Article 503.4 to ensure better preparation before the International level.
- Number of horses per athlete, Article 504.1.3, National Federations are responsible in entering athletes in International Competitions and to ensure that no Athlete rides more horses than his abilities in any one day of Cross Country.
- The Judges needed to have knowledge of Risk Management, Article 511.1.1.
- The Technical Delegate for all FEI competitions had to be chosen from the FEI list, Article 511.1.1. to ensure enforcement of the FEI rules and follow-up of the events
- For each event, a Chief Steward must be chosen from the FEI list of Stewards and appointed by the Organising Committee to be responsible for all Stewarding matters related to that Event. He is a key member of the team of Officials working for the Organising Committee. Article 513.7.1
- For CIs at 3&4 star level in special circumstances, the FEI has the right, in a timely manner, to consult with the Organising Committee and ask for a different balance of experience and expertise within the team of Officials proposed in the schedule of the Competition. Article 513.8.5
- Ensuring the correct level of difficulty of the Cross Country and Jumping courses according to the relative star level of the Competition is paramount in order to achieve a correct and effective technical progression of Horses and Athletes throughout the levels. Article 515.



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- Any member of the Ground Jury shall have the duty and full authority at any time during the competition to eliminate from the competition any horse that is lame, sick or exhausted and any athlete that is unfit to continue. Article 515.2.1
- The Technical Delegate responsibility to report back to the FEI Headquarters. Article 515.3.7 was stressed.
- In order to be entered in an international competition, Athletes and Horses must first and foremost fulfil the criteria set by their National Federations. In addition to the criteria set by National Federations the eligibility to compete will be determined by the achievement of a number of Minimum Eligibility Requirements (art. 517) in international Competitions. MERs have to be achieved by the Horse or by the Athlete/Horse as a combination according to the level of competence/experience (Art. 519 Athletes Categories) of the Athlete and the level of the competition.

National Federations are encouraged to set stronger and additional criteria to FEI's minimum requirements for horses and athletes.

The TD or his nominee shall check that all horses and athletes are correctly entered by their NFs and registered with the FEI. Article 516

**Athlete categories (Article 519)** - It was explained that this was a concept introduced to recognize the competence/experience of riders and to define a recognition of proven competence of the Athlete at a certain level.

- Two matrixes of Minimum Eligibility Requirements were in the Rules (Articles 520.1 and 520.2). One for categorised Athletes (FEI Athlete categories for Eventing define a recognition of proven competence of the Athlete at a certain level) and one for Athletes not yet categorised.
- The Minimum Eligibility Requirements for Championships have not been modified (Article 521)

**Reverse Qualifications (Article 522)** - The reverse qualification was explained, the differences between elimination and withdrawal had to be made clear to all involved in the sport. Withdrawals have a better placing in the results than eliminations to encourage responsibility.

- In the case of a Yellow Warning Card being issued, a notice stating the name of the Athlete and the reason of the warning must be posted on the Official notice board immediately after the decision of the Ground Jury Article 526
- Wearing a hard hat is compulsory for anyone riding a Horse at the Event. Wearing a properly fastened protective headgear complying with any of the European (EN), British (PAS), North American (ASTM), Australian/New Zealand tested standards is compulsory for anyone jumping an obstacle. Article 537.1.1
- Cross Country Test - Body protectors are compulsory for this test. Article 537.3
- Leaving the Course after Elimination: An Athlete eliminated for any reason must leave the course at once and has no right to continue. The athlete must walk his horse off the course, either mounted or dismounted. Athletes who fail to comply will be disciplined at the discretion of the Ground Jury in accordance with Article 524. Article 544.8
- Additional Reasons for Elimination Article 547.3.

### **547.3.1 Compulsory Elimination**

Elimination must be applied in the following cases:

- a) Competing with improper saddlery (art. 538).
- b) Error of course not rectified (art. 544.3).



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- c) Omission of obstacle or compulsory passage (art. 544.3).
- d) Jumping or incurring a fault at an obstacle in the wrong order or passing through a compulsory passage in the wrong order (art. 544.3).
- e) Jumping an obstacle in the wrong direction (art. 544.3).
- f) Retaking an obstacle already jumped (art. 544.3).
- g) Athlete in difficulty (art. 544.6).

#### **547.3.2 Ground Jury Discretion**

Elimination is left to the discretion of the Ground Jury in the following cases:

- a) Dangerous riding (art. 524).
  - b) Abuse of Horse (art. 525).
  - c) Deliberately starting before being given the signal to start (art. 544.1.1).
  - d) Jumping or attempting to jump any obstacle without headgear, or with an unfastened retention harness (art. 537.1.1).
  - e) Wilful obstruction of an overtaking Athlete, or failure to follow the instructions of the Officials while being overtaken (art. 524).
  - f) Causing danger to another Athlete while overtaking that Athlete (art. 524).
  - g) Failure to stop when signalled (art. 544.7).
  - h) Unauthorised assistance (art. 539).
- Fall - 548.5.1 Athlete – An Athlete is considered to have fallen when he is separated from his Horse in such a way as to necessitate remounting.
  - Fall – 548.5.2 Horse – A Horse is considered to have fallen when, at the same time, both its shoulder and quarters have touched either the ground or the obstacle and the ground or when it is trapped in a fence in such a way that it is unable to proceed without assistance or is liable to injure itself.

*The summary of changes in the Eventing Rules can be found on the FEI Website under <http://www.fei.org/disciplines/eventing/rules>*

## **7. NFs REQUIREMENTS FOR MERS**

## **Annex to be prepared and published**

The National Safety Officers presented the Minimum Eligibility requirements applied in their National Federations:

Philine Ganders (GER): As in Germany there were not many national competitions at 2\* level and none at 3\* level (unlike GBR), additional international qualification requirements at 1 and 2\* level have been added:

- for 1\* level for non categorised riders the rider must finish in the top 33% in 1m class;
- for 2\* level for non categorised riders, an MER in an additional CIC1\* / CCI1\*.

Jonathan Clissold (GBR): Historically, British Eventing have set tighter qualifications for long format competitions than for FEI events. Qualifying is a mix of national and international competitions.

Lars Christensson (SWE): In Sweden, all riders must be confirmed by a trainer to start at 90cm. To compete at international competitions, the national coach and the NF must agree the participation of each rider to enter 1\*level. No additional specific qualifications are required.

Adrienne Hofer (DEN): Coach approval to enter International events is requested. Riders must do a level six times before going up a level. The DEN NF has measures in place to prevent riders buying 3\* horses and entering directly with it. If it is felt that the rider does not have enough experience, he/she will be asked to keep competing at the lower level. It is a personalised approach, only possible in a small country.



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Anton Granhus (NOR): Mix of national and international qualification to progress, plus a personalised (NF/Coach to rider) approach.

Laurent Bousquet (FRA) : The FRA NF apply more or less the same system as Germany with a mix of national and international requirements. The difference is that a non-categorised riders have to compete once at intermediate level before entering at 1\*. The riders are always required to compete at a national level higher than the international one, as 1\* classes are usually more difficult than the novice level.

Giacomo Della Chiesa (ITA): The NF requires that the riders competes in 3 national classes before entering a 1\*, riders are allowed 20 penalties at one of the competitions. A mix of international and national qualifications, but if rider wants to go abroad, a MER in one CNC\* is required.

Gert Naber (NED) : Riders are monitored at 1\* level. The national qualification system (MERs) requires 60% in dressage, 12 penalties maximum in show jumping and not more than 30secs over time in Cross Country. Once at the 1\* level, FEI qualifications based on international results are used and the National coach has the final say. FEI reverse qualification is well accepted in NED.

Rob Stevenson (CAN) : National and / or International competitions for qualifications are required.

Delano Miranda (BRA) : No national qualifying system is implemented at this stage.

Marcin Konarski (POL) : The riders must have a clear round in a national 1\*. There are also special classes at 1.05m to prepare for 1\* level. To enter International events outside Poland, additional qualifications are required– 3 clear rounds at 1m, 1.05m and 1.10m and trainer approval is needed.

**Conclusion:** It was agreed that National Federations would be asked to submit their National requirements to the FEI so the information can be shared on the FEI website to enable federations to compare systems.

It was clearly emphasised that the FEI would publish this information to help National Federations and provide additional support, however, each National Federation were responsible for their own system and each NF was different in many ways..

## **8. WORKING GROUP**

### **8.1 MEDICAL CARDS**

The working group reporter (Peter Whitehead) reiterated the conclusion already reached by the NSO meetings in the past that the current armband medical card system was not efficient. It was difficult for OCs to check, armbands were often not updated, illegible or very old. It was felt that its introduction had been essential to raise the safety awareness at the time however with the evolution of the sport there was a need for change.

The actual need of the armband was questioned by the working group and it was concluded that the information was not trusted by the medical staff, who preferred to talk to the rider or someone who knew the rider before any treatment.

It was emphasized that the most important information were accurate contact details of the rider (next of kin) on the day of the competition. In Sweden, a different system was already in force of the organisers printing the contact details on the bib received on arrival of the participant at the event.



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Such contact information was not confidential and could therefore be collected electronically and stored. Could be done through the registration process when arriving at the competition.

Riders having a serious health condition (heart disease, diabetes, serious allergy) should be wearing a Medicalert bracelet, in addition the notification form for serious allergies should be filled in. Riders should be made aware of this important measure.

It could be mentioned in the rules that riders who had a medical condition should declare it to the Chief Medical officer of the competition.

Suspension rules further to concussion were also discussed. The issue was riders having concussion at a competition in a country, going to another competition in a different country the week after. It was felt that an electronic recorded suspension system (page on the FEI website) could be implemented. National Federations/Organisers could be informed of the suspended riders. However the issue was always the speed of the information collected by the FEI from one week-end to another.

**Conclusions:**

The medical card was implemented with the best intentions however, the system was not ineffective, With modern technology.. It was identified that accurate contact details was the most important together with an efficient and practical way of collecting them.

An electronic system of recorded suspensions for concussion was needed and it an additional column "to be notified" was to be added to the "FEI Report Form – Eventing – Falls – Athletes" of the Technical Delegate report. This page was to be sent to the FEI on Monday morning.

The concussion topic concerned not only Eventing but all FEI disciplines.

**8.2 OFFICIALS RISK MANAGEMENT DVD REVIEW**

The working group (reporter Jonathan Clissold) felt that the following improvements/modifications could be brought to the DVD:

- Example of a good jump over a fence next to a bad example would allow for better comparison
- Several sections within chapters to stop the DVD after a sequence and discuss it
- Removal of name of riders and horses
- Additional clips of horses going too slowly
- Examples of good riding in difficult situations
- Good section and bad section of the same rider
- Additional clips for test paper

Giuseppe Della Chiesa asked whether as a courtesy the faces of riders should be fogged out. It was mentioned that it could give an impression of "outlaws" and would not be fair to the good example riders. The footage shown was owned mainly by British Eventing and it was mentioned that it was not necessary. It was agreed however that the names of the riders should be taken out when shown.

The deadline for finishing the DVD was set to as soon as possible and hopefully in time for the first officials' seminar.



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### **8.3 CROSS COUNTRY INDOOR**

The working group (reporter Laurent Bousquet) had discussed the importance of establishing guidelines for indoor Cross Country competitions/show classes. The competitions were more and more organised held at major Show Jumping Shows (Stuttgart, Amsterdam, Mechelen, Toronto, etc) The spectators enjoyed such classes and more Organisers were including them in the overall program.

The question was if a "label" was necessary to manage them, if the FEI Eventing Committee or National Eventing Committees needed to provide guidelines or if organisers should be allowed to run them freely as now.

The conclusion was that the FEI Eventing Committee should provide guidelines rather than issuing rules as an authority and communicate with organisers.

Indoor cross country with fixed solid fences, short distances and speed within limited space was risky and needed to be managed. It was felt that most organisers did not really understand the implications.

Currently, two kinds of show classes existed, one as a training concept for riders and horses (especially in the Northern countries where the weather conditions were difficult in winter)) including cross country only. The second was indoor show cross country combined with Show Jumping during a major Jumping event without Dressage.

It was felt that the same horses were not suited for both types of outdoor and indoor competitions, indoor shows could more suitable for warm blood (Show Jumping horses).

In the Netherlands, team competitions were organised with 2 riders per team (touching hands to create the team spirit), the more the competition went on the more the pressure went up which could lead to scary situations which required guidelines and risk awareness, management. In Sweden a similar concept existed called "Hunter" competitions which are successful.

The following proposal was made regarding the requirements:

- The riders to be qualified for minimum 2 star level (e.g. FEI C categorized), Cross Country course of max 2 star level, show jumping 1m25 – 1m30.
- Cross Country with a lot of accuracy fences
- Speed 400 meter per minute Optimum time not against the clock
- Second phase jump-off against the clock over show jumping fences (natural colours) consisting of Cross Country questions (skinny fences, corners, angles, etc).
- A Joker fence could be included as last fence with a short and long route
- Two phases, finish line of Cross Country could be start line of Show Jumping jump off
- Body protectors and helmet compulsory

This could make interesting for the public and a good promotion in the winter, spectators could discover the sport.

The main concern was to define if these competitions were affecting the Eventing sport and if the risk needed to be managed . It was felt that some control on these competitions was necessary if they were to promote Eventing and the fact that Eventing riders were involved. Recommendations on Officials had to be proposed.

Arena Eventing would be a competition name suggestion.

*Comments:*



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*Adrienne Hofer (DEN): There would a conflict of interest And Eventing cannot accept this risk; the FEI need to take a position as such competitions has nothing to do with cross-country riding. It was suggested to try to distance Eventing away from this form of competition..*

*Peter Whitehead: raised the issues of safety protection for such competitions – helmet, body protector, etc – and medical cover. It would be important to identify the information required for insurers.*

*Lars Christensson (SWE): At Falsterbo horse show, the Wednesday 'hunting' class is the second biggest day of the show with a big crowd. The SWE NF Eventing committee was approached but as there are no SWE guidelines for this it is run currently under show jumping rules.*

*Jonathan Clissold: suggested to call this show class Arena Eventing rather than Indoor Eventing, as often run outside as well. (Express Eventing is still continuing in reduced format in Britain, in a series of outside events with a final inside at the Horse of the Year Show)*

*Giuseppe Della Chiesa: The FEI can work on the technical side to ensure that the competitions are run in a reasonable way, however national federations must take responsibility. The problem is that these competitions are clearly advertised as Eventing (or indoor cross-country) and i Eventing riders that are involved.*

It was concluded that the subject would be discussed at Eventing Committee to establish guidelines.

## **9. UPDATE ON FRANGIBLE / DEFORMABLE DEVICES**

The Eventing Committee Chairman informed the participants that standards for the minimum strength of frangible/deformable cross country fences had been finalized and this was the framework for the approval of deformable and frangible mechanisms developed as a reliable system to monitor all devices and new systems.

The first device, the MIM Clip, had been certified and the list of registered products was now published on the FEI website.

It was important to note that the FEI standard was not a safety standard, but was created to ensure that the fence maintained the Cross Country principles, based on strength of fence and repeatability, and that no mechanism would make the fence more risky than a traditional cross country fence.

It was emphasised that when using frangible devices it was important not to over build the fence because there was a frangible device. The principle of building the right fence in the right place was still paramount.

Recommendations on the use of frangible / deformable devices was to be included in the FEI Cross Country Guidelines.

## **10. FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEXT SEMINAR**

The feedback from participants stated that the Seminar had improved throughout the years and allow for valuable exchange of information between FEI HQ, NSOs . The time allocated was convenient . The working group sessions were appreciated and allowed good interaction and view sharing, more time could be allocated for these working groups.



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For the 2013 statistic report, it was suggested that the International Statistics be split by country of the falls ratio. Statistics on the use of air vests could also be added.

The discussion topic suggestions for 2014 included:

- Reports of NSO, case studies of one good and 1 bad experience in national risk management
- Some NFs to compare their first draft of Risk management proposals (during first NSO Seminar in 2008) with their current situation (evolution, change of vision, etc)
- More details on the statistic and cross reference, Yellow Cards (per country, per offense), Airbag vests, fall ratio per country comparison between International and National
- National watch list (Dangerous riding, Concussions) how to share information on International level
- Review of National qualification requirements
- Follow up on frangible /deformable devices
- Fall training
- Cross Country training
- Follow up of Cross Country indoor & Style competitions
- Cross Country Control centre recommendations
- Relation of costs for lower level events (national and international)
- Risk Management Plan at low level competitions (1&2 star)
- Veterinary topic
- Good picture of the sport for public and media
- National Education of Officials
- Minimum requirement of medical care at events . What's achievable and what happens in other countries

Points of the NSO Seminar to be sent in June 2014 to allow a better preparation of participants.

### **11. 2014 NSO SEMINAR**

25-26 January 2014, location TBC (Seminar to be held in France was proposed).