FÉDÉRATION ÉQUESTRE INTERNATIONALE

To:	**National Federations**
From:	**FEI Headquarters**
CC:	FEI Board
Pages:	Executive Summary (3); Annex (10)
Date:	8 July 2019
Re:	**FEI Reining Discipline**

Dear National Federations,

The present Memo sets out the proposal from the FEI Board regarding the future of the Reining Discipline within the FEI, together with the key information considered in reaching the proposal.

The Memo is structured in two parts:

1. Executive Summary: provides an overview of the situation and the background to the FEI Board's Decision/Recommendation.

2. Annex: provides detailed information considered by the FEI Board prior to making the recommendation to the FEI General Assembly.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Further information on each of the points addressed below is set out in the Annex to this Memo.

1. Cooperation Agreement

A Cooperation Agreement between the International Equestrian Federation ("FEI"), the National Reining Horse Association ("NRHA") and the American Quarter Horse Association ("AQHA") was signed on 13 January 2014. The main points were:

1. FEI to be the sole worldwide governing authority for Competitions for Horses aged seven (7) years and older. This would allow the FEI not to be in breach of Article 1.1 of its Statutes.

2. All NRHA and AQHA Competitions to meet the FEI stewarding criteria related to the welfare of the Horse.

3. All NRHA and AQHA Competitions to comply with the FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse.

4. NRHA and AQHA to accept and enforce relevant penalties imposed by FEI and the Court of Arbitration of Sport ("CAS").

5. Joint FEI, NRHA and/or AQHA Reining Events to be subject to FEI Rules & Regulations, including (but not only) the FEI Veterinary Regulations and the FEI Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations.

2. Termination of Cooperation Agreement

Following a series of material breaches of the Cooperation Agreement by NRHA, the FEI informed the FEI National Federation Members ("FEI NFs) during the FEI General Assembly 2018 in Manama (BRN) about its decision to immediately terminate the Cooperation Agreement. Subsequently, a letter of termination was sent by the FEI to NRHA and AQHA on 19 November 2018.

3. Consequences of the Termination of the Cooperation Agreement

As a result of the termination of the Cooperation Agreement, the FEI can no longer be considered as the sole world governing body of any aspect of the Discipline of Reining due to the fact that NRHA is *de facto* operating as the international governing body of the Discipline.

This situation is incompatible with the FEI Statutes which state that one of the objectives of the FEI is to act as the sole authority for all International Events in all FEI Disciplines, including Reining (Article 1.1.). The FEI Statutes also requires FEI NFs to recognise the FEI as the sole authority and governing body for all the FEI Disciplines (Article 2.4).

Therefore, NRHA's *de facto* status as the international governing body for Reining is incompatible with the FEI Statutes.

4. Actions taken since the Termination of the Cooperation Agreement

- The FEI held meetings with key stakeholders in December 2018 and January 2019 on how to develop the Discipline.
- Dedicated session at the FEI Sports Forum 2019.
- Follow up from FEI Sports Forum discussion during the in-person FEI Board Meeting in April 2019. The FEI Board gave a mandate to the FEI Secretary General and the FEI Reining Director to re-open discussions with NRHA and AQHA with the aim of reaching a new agreement.
- Several attempts by the FEI to arrange conference calls with NRHA were unsuccessful, being either postponed or cancelled by NRHA. The NRHA then designated USA Reining as the body for the FEI to engage with.
- In-person FEI Board Meeting discussion on 19 and 20 June 2019.

5. FEI Board Discussions and Recommendation Decision

Further discussion on the future of Reining took place at the in-person FEI Board Meeting on 19 and 20 June 2019; this included a presentation by the Chair of the FEI Reining Committee on a possible way forward for the Discipline.

The FEI Board took the following points into consideration:

- FEI's efforts to reach a new agreement with NRHA had not been successful and there was a clear unwillingness on the part of NRHA to engage with the FEI;

- FEI Reining could not survive as a viable Discipline without a formal cooperation with NRHA given the overlap of Athletes, Officials, Events and general structures;

- The termination of the Cooperation Agreement with NRHA meant that the current situation was not compatible with the FEI's own Statutes insofar as the FEI cannot reasonably be considered as the actual world governing body of the Discipline; and

- The removal of Reining as an FEI Discipline would not lead to the disappearance of the sport, which could continue being practised by the current Reining Athletes via the existing NRHA structures or otherwise.

In light of the above, the FEI Board recommends the General Assembly 2019 to vote the removal of Reining as an FEI Discipline as of 2020**.**

6. Consequences of the Removal of Reining as an FEI Discipline

Any CRIs/CRIOs entered in the FEI Calendar for 2020 would only be entered on a provisional basis pending the outcome of the FEI General Assembly vote in November 2019. FEI Headquarters would inform the concerned Organisers and FEI NFs accordingly.

As of 2020, no further FEI Reining Championships at either regional, continental or world level would be held.

FEI NFs could continue to manage Reining within their NF structures on a national and/or international level with other Reining governing bodies.

If this proposal is approved by the General Assembly the FEI Reining Rules will therefore not be applicable any more as of 2020. All references to Reining shall be removed from the FEI Rules and Regulations, such us but not only, the FEI Statutes, the Internal Regulations of the FEI and the FEI General Regulations

ANNEX – DETAILED INFORMATION

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1. COOPERATION AGREEMENT

A Cooperation Agreement between the International Equestrian Federation ("FEI"), the National Reining Horse Association ("NRHA") and the American Quarter Horse Association ("AQHA") was signed on 13 January 2014 for a period of 3 years[1].

Following a series of material breaches of the Cooperation Agreement by NRHA, the FEI informed the FEI National Federation Members ("FEI NFs") during the FEI General Assembly in 2018 in Manama (BRN) about its decision to immediately terminate the Cooperation Agreement.

Subsequently, a letter of termination was sent by the FEI to NRHA and AQHA on 19 November 2018. In particular, the FEI Board took note of the NRHA's failure to comply with the following provisions of the Cooperation Agreement, despite repeated requests by the FEI to do so:

> *"C. A competition which is specifically organised for horses of 7 years and older is required under the FEI Regulations to be held under the authority of the National Federation of that country and to be entered into the FEI Calendar for International events.*
>
> *E. All penalties imposed by a competent body of the FEI or the Court of Arbitration for Sport against Persons responsible, Horses, Owners, Officials and/or any Support Personnel that may arise from participation in FEI Competitions under FEI Rules and*

[1] With an automatic renewal of 1 year, unless the Cooperation Agreement was terminated for the reasons expressed in Article 2, namely: with immediate effect, in case of breach by either party; or, in the absence of breach, on 6 months prior written notice to the other.

Regulations shall be accepted and enforced by the NRHA and AQHA. Failure to do so will be a material breach of this Agreement.

H. Joint FEI, AQHA and/or NRHA Reining Events are subject to such Events meeting the minimum FEI Stewarding Regulations, FEI Code of Conduct, FEI Veterinary Regulations linked to the Clean Sport criteria and the Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations, as well as all other applicable FEI Rules and Regulations. Wherever possible such joint Events should have a separate timetable for the running of the FEI competitions."

Also, via this termination letter, NRHA and AQHA were informed that a future agreement between the organisations was subject to a firm and binding commitment by NRHA and AQHA to comply with the FEI Rules and Regulations, such as but not limited to: 1) the FEI's Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations; 2) the FEI stewarding requirements, and; 3) application of the FEI rules on the age of competing Horses.

Despite the above and despite all efforts made by the FEI since 2010, particularly since the termination of the Cooperation Agreement in November 2018, no new Cooperation Agreement between FEI, NRHA and AQHA exists as of today.

2. COOPERATION AGREEMENT CHRONOLOGY

In this section we aim to provide you with an explanation of the main events that led the FEI to terminate the Cooperation Agreement with NRHA and AQHA in November 2018.

In **April 2000**, at the FEI General Assembly in Mainz (GER), Reining was accepted as an FEI Discipline. At the time of incorporation into the FEI, the decision was made for the FEI to rely upon the expertise and personnel of the NRHA. Accordingly, the FEI Reining Rules, education and FEI Officials' promotion was based entirely upon the existing structure operated and managed within the NRHA.

It was also accepted by both FEI and NRHA that it would take some time for the Discipline of Reining to fully comply with the various FEI Rules and Regulations.

Between 2000 and 2009 the Reining Department and the Reining Committee, together with the international Reining community, incessantly worked on the development of the Discipline worldwide. The following actions were also taken: the organisation of the first ever FEI World Reining Championship on the occasion of the FEI World Equestrian Games™ Jerez (ESP) in 2002, the consolidation of the FEI World Reining Championship at the FEI World Equestrian Games™ in Aachen (GER) in 2006, the organisation of FEI Reining Continental Championships, the creation of the FEI Reining Masters to stimulate FEI Reining Events around the world, the establishment of rankings to stimulate participation in FEI Reining Events, the implementation of Youth Competitions and Youth Championships, and the education of FEI Reining Officials.

In **January 2010** NRHA was informed that they would need to ensure the following in order to achieve basic compliance with the FEI Rules and Regulations:

1. All organisations which manage the sport of Reining in countries which had a recognised FEI National Federation Member ("FEI NF") had to formalise their relationship with that FEI NF and had to agree that all Reining Events (National or

International) were conducted under that FEI NF and subject to the FEI Rules and Regulations.

2. All Reining Competitions which by FEI definition were International had to be organised under the FEI Rules and Regulations as a CRI. This to include Athlete/Horse membership of the FEI NF and FEI and subject to the minimum age for FEI International Competitions.

3. National Events whilst held under the authority of the FEI NF were still subject to the relevant FEI Rules and Regulations where applicable, due to the obligations of that FEI NF as a member of the FEI.

At the same time, the FEI highlighted its commitment to the future of Reining within the FEI. In this regard, the FEI confirmed it would actively work with NRHA and its member organisations/affiliates to assist in achieving full compliance with the FEI Rules and Regulations. Likewise, the need for the sport of Reining to achieve compliance with the FEI Rules and Regulations within the quickest time possible was emphasised.

NRHA officially addressed FEI's concerns and confirmed the creation of a Working Group with a view to achieving FEI compliance across the various issues raised.

In **July 2012,** because of the introduction of the "Unsanctioned Event" rule in the FEI General Regulations in January 2012 (as further explained in Section 5.2) and the development of the FEI Discipline during the previous years, the need to have a Cooperation Agreement was identified in order to define, with absolutely clarity, the main rights, obligations and responsibilities of the 3 organisations, namely: FEI, NRHA and AQHA. At the time, the FEI confirmed to NRHA and AQHA the need for these organisations to comply with the minimum FEI requirements regarding welfare of the Horse (including anti-doping and Veterinary Regulations) and stewarding standards.

During **2013,** discussions took place in that direction between the FEI, NRHA and AQHA and on **13 January 2014** a Cooperation Agreement was signed between the 3 organisations (the key points of the Cooperation Agreement are set out in the Executive Summary).

In **August 2016,** the Chair of the Reining Committee expressed his concern about the future of the Discipline within the FEI due to the lack of growth in the number of FEI Reining Events. A discussion was held with NRHA with the aim of finding solutions to increase the number of Events worldwide. Likewise, it was mentioned that the Cooperation Agreement with NRHA and AQHA had to be reviewed in view of their non-compliance with the FEI Rules and Regulations and because the term of the Cooperation Agreement was ending in January 2017.

During 2017 various discussions took place between the FEI, NRHA and AQHA with the aim of achieving compliance by NRHA and AQHA with the FEI minimum requirements concerning welfare of the Horse, stewarding and also defining the authority of the FEI as the sole worldwide governing body over 7 years and older Horses Competitions. The NRHA confirmed that, despite their improvement concerning anti-doping controls, they might not reach the FEI standards in the future. However, the NRHA reaffirmed its desire to continue a relationship with the FEI due to the FEI's large exposure in international media.

In particular, 4 main points of FEI's concern were brought to the attention of NRHA:

1. 7 years and older Horses Competitions, regardless of the number of nations participating in the Competition, were required to be organised and run as CRIs under the FEI Rules and Regulations, and were to be held under the authority of the FEI NF of that country and to be entered into the FEI Calendar for International Events;

2. NRHA and AQHA to meet the minimum stewarding criteria as per the FEI Stewards Manual Reining;

3. The respect and application by NRHA and AQHA of FEI sanctions/penalties; and

4. It was a strict condition that FEI rules and policies must be fully observed, respected and implemented at all and joint FEI, AQHA and/or NRHA Reining Events, i.e. Events at which FEI and AQHA/NRHA Competitions are held concurrently ("Joint Events"). Joint Events to be subject to such Events meeting the minimum FEI Stewarding Regulations, FEI Code of Conduct, FEI Veterinary Regulations linked to the Clean Sport criteria and the Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations, as well as all other applicable FEI Rules and Regulations. Wherever possible, such joint Events should have a separate timetable for the running of the FEI Competitions.

Despite the different meetings and discussions held in 2017 and 2018, NRHA and AQHA never formally accepted the FEI's proposal. Consequently, the FEI had no other solution but to terminate the Cooperation Agreement in November 2018, after the FEI World Equestrian Games™ 2018 in Tryon (USA).

3. ACTIONS SINCE THE TERMINATION OF THE COOPERATION AGREEMENT

From November 2018 to April 2019, following the termination of the Cooperation Agreement in November 2018, the FEI continued taking actions to further evaluate the future of FEI Reining. In particular the following actions were taken:

- Meetings with key stakeholders were organised on 7 December 2018 and 29 January 2019 on how to grow FEI Reining

- At the FEI Sports Forum 2019 a dedicated session was organised (https://inside.fei.org/fei/fei-sports-forum-2019-session-4). The main objective of the session was for the FEI, and particularly the FEI Board, to understand what the recommendations of the FEI NFs and the stakeholders would be concerning the future of the Reining Discipline within the FEI. It was then explained that ultimately a strategic decision about the Discipline's future within the FEI had to be taken by the General Assembly in November 2019 in Moscow (RUS) upon recommendation of the FEI Board.

- At the in-person FEI Board meeting on 17 and 18 April[2], the outcome of the Sports Forum session was discussed. At this meeting, the Board acknowledged the importance of the

[2] The Chair of the FEI Reining Committee was invited but was unable to attend.

session at the Sports Forum during which the legal and governance context was clearly explained.

As there was no longer an agreement with NRHA and AQHA, consideration had to be given to whether the FEI could have a cross-over with NRHA Events and, if so, how. As NRHA Events would become "Unsanctioned Events", meaning that if FEI registered Athletes, Horses and Officials participate in NRHA Events they would be ineligible to participate in FEI Events for a period of 6 months – meaning that they would effectively have to make a choice between the two (NRHA or FEI Events). The Board also discussed the fact that the majority of Reining Events take place in the framework of NRHA Events and if FEI Reining had to exist completely separately from NRHA there were serious doubts as to whether this Discipline was viable in the FEI.

Likewise, it was emphasised by the Board that the only way to move forward was, similar to all other FEI Disciplines, if: 1) the FEI would become the sole world governing body for the Reining Discipline (even if limited to a defined category of Horses' age), and; 2) NRHA and AQHA would fully comply with all FEI minimum requirements and standards of welfare of the Horse, anti-doping, veterinary and stewarding.

The Board agreed to give the Secretary General and the FEI Reining Director a mandate to discuss once again with NRHA and AQHA with the aim of reaching a new agreement. The intention was that a new report and recommendations would be shared with the Board at their in-person meeting in June 2019. At this in-person meeting, the Board would make a decision on the position of the Reining Discipline in order to make a recommendation to be voted on at the FEI General Assembly in November 2019.

Unfortunately, all attempts made by the FEI to arrange a meeting with NRHA to discuss the future of FEI Reining were unsuccessful. NRHA postponed/cancelled several arranged teleconferences at short notice. At that point, NRHA informed the FEI that all future correspondence on the matter should go through USA Reining.

4. DEVELOPMENT OF THE DISCIPLINE

As per Article 1.8 of the FEI Statutes, one of the objectives of the FEI is to "[…] *encourage the development of the Equestrian Disciplines throughout the World*".

With this straightforward objective in mind the FEI, through its Reining Committee in conjunction with the FEI NFs and the international Reining community, has incessantly discussed and taken numerous actions to grow FEI Reining since its approval as an FEI Discipline in 2000.

Despite these actions, the Discipline has not grown within the FEI over the years.

As can be seen in the figures below, the number of Athletes and Horses registered with the FEI in the period 2009-2018[3] has decreased:

[3] NOTE: The current FEI Database was implemented in 2009. The data available before 2009 is not mentioned in this Memo because the reliability of the data transferred from the previous data to the FEI Database in 2009 is not 100% reliable due to the different systems used, including manual transfer.

NUMBER OF HORSES REGISTERED WITH THE FEI FROM 2009 TO 2019

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2009 to 2019
447	419	376	189	399	372	249	348	462	342	247	- 200

NUMBER OF ATHLETES REGISTERED WITH THE FEI FROM 2009 TO 2019

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2009 to 2019
336	291	270	152	318	298	225	278	452	297	229	- 107

The number of FEI Reining Events during the same period has enjoyed a marginal increase:

NUMBER OF FEI REINING EVENTS

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2009 to 2019
72	53	48	34	115	93	48	76	121	101	91	+ 19

From the above figures it can be concluded that:

- FEI Reining is the only FEI Discipline in which the number of registered Horses and Athletes has decreased in the last 10 years; and

- Due to the increase of registered Horses and Athletes in the years previous to the FEI World Equestrian Games™, it is undisputable that the Games are one of the main and only motivation for Athletes to compete in CRIs and for FEI NFs to host CRIs.

The following figures show the average number of starters in FEI Reining Events:

AVERAGE OF STARTERS IN FEI REINING EVENTS

YEAR	NUMBER OF EVENTS	AVERAGE NUMBER OF STARTERS
2013	115	6.41
2014	93	5.15
2015	48	5.41
2016	76	5.69
2017	121	4.08
2018	101	4.15

Instead, NRHA seems to be the preferred organisation for most of the Reining Athletes worldwide as can be seen from the figures below. Additionally, it is become apparent that many of the top NRHA Reining Athletes are more interested in participating in NRHA Competitions rather than in FEI Competitions.

NUMBER OF NRHA ATHLETES

YEAR	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
NRHA	14895	15289	14873	14866	14818
FEI	298	225	278	452	297
FEI DIFFERENCE	**-14597**	**-15064**	**-14595**	**-14414**	**-14521**

NUMBER OF NRHA EVENTS

YEAR	2017	2018
NRHA	1255	1230
FEI	121	101
FEI DIFFERENCE	**- 1134**	**- 1129**

NUMBER OF FEI STANDALONE EVENTS

It can be seen below how many FEI standalone Reining Events took place in 2017 and 2018, i.e. how many FEI Events were not held in conjunction with NRHA Events.

YEAR	EVENTS	FEI STANDALONE	%	WITH NRHA	%
2017	121	22	**18%**	99	81%
2018	101	18	**18%**	83	81%

As was highlighted during the Sports Forum 2019, it is clear that a majority of FEI Reining Events take place in the framework of NRHA Events and, if FEI Reining has to exist completely separately from NRHA, there are doubts as to whether Reining is viable as an FEI Discipline.

5. LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE ANALYSIS

The fact that no Cooperation Agreement exists between the FEI, NRHA and AQHA causes a number of legal breaches of FEI Rules and Regulations as well as governance consequences for the FEI.

These legal breaches and governance consequences are:

5.1. NRHA's de facto status as an international governing body for Reining

As stated on its website, NRHA "*serves as the standard setting body for the sport of reining worldwide*" (https://nrha.com/about). Also, the fact that: national associations are affiliated with NRHA; members (such as athletes) can be from anywhere in the world with no residency or nationality requirements, and; NRHA Events are held worldwide, confirm that NRHA is *de facto* an international governing body for Reining.

5.2. FEI as the sole governing body for the FEI Disciplines

According to Article 1.1 of the FEI Statutes, the first objective of the FEI is:

> *"To be the **sole authority** for all International Events in Dressage, Jumping, Eventing, Driving, Endurance, Vaulting, **Reining**, Para Equestrian and any other forms of Equestrian Sport approved by the General Assembly (the "Equestrian Disciplines")" (emphasis added)"*

In addition, Articles 2.4 and 2.5 of the FEI Statutes establish that:

> "*2.4. All National Federations recognise the FEI as the **sole authority and governing body for Equestrian Disciplines**. The National Federations agree not to become members or recognise or otherwise support any other international organisation with a similar purpose except those recognised by the FEI.*
>
> *2.5. The FEI and the National Federations recognise that **each National Federation is the sole authority (besides the FEI itself) for Equestrian Disciplines in the country** where it is located."*

The above means that:

- The FEI shall be the sole authority and governing body for Reining worldwide;
- FEI NFs are not entitled to recognise any other international organisation governing Reining, such as NRHA, for as long as Reining is an FEI Discipline; and
- FEI NFs and the FEI recognise that each FEI NF is the sole authority (besides the FEI itself) for Reining in the country where it is located.

NRHA's *de facto* status as an international governing body for Reining is incompatible with the FEI's statutory objective to be the sole authority for the Discipline.

5.3. Consequences of the FEI continuing as the worldwide governing body of Reining with no Cooperation Agreement

Apart from being in breach of a number of statutory articles as seen in section 5.2 above, the participation of Athletes, Horses and Officials registered with the FEI in NRHA Events would imply the application of the FEI's "Unsanctioned Event Rule".

According to Article 113.5 of the FEI General Regulations, an "Unsanctioned Event" is:

> "[…] *an event and/or a competition that is neither published in the official Calendar nor authorised by a NF and/or a National Event authorised or organised by a NF that is suspended by the FEI."*

Consequently, any NRHA Event could not be published in the official FEI Calendar and would thus be considered as an Unsanctioned Event.

The consequences for participating in an Unsanctioned Event are as follows (see art. 113.4 and 156.9 of the FEI General Regulations):

Art. 113.4: "An Athlete and/or Horse, even if registered with the FEI, is not eligible to participate in an International Event or National Event (and so may not be invited by an OC to such Event or entered by an NF in such Event) if that Athlete and/or Horse has participated, in the six (6) months prior to the first day of the International Event or National Event in question, in an Unsanctioned Event."

Art. 156.9: "An Official is not eligible to participate in an International Event or National Event (and so may not be invited or nominated to participate in such event) if he has participated, in the six (6) months prior to the first day of the International Event or National Event in question, in an Unsanctioned Event."

In addition, please note that, following the FEI's proposed modification to Article 113 of the FEI General Regulations (as published on 8 July 2019) for approval by the General Assembly 2019, for the application of the FEI Unsanctioned Event rule, the FEI would need to inform the Athletes, Owners and Officials that a given Event would be considered as "Unsanctioned Event" and/or publish the list of Unsanctioned Event(s) on the FEI website so that FEI Athletes, Chefs d'Equipe, Owners, Officials or FEI NFs are on notice. As noted above, FEI Athletes, Officials and Owners would effectively need to choose whether they wanted to compete/officiate in FEI or NRHA Events. Given the significantly higher number of NRHA Events worldwide and the high prize-money in NRHA Events, we can assume that the majority of Reining Athletes, Officials and Owners will choose NRHA Events. Thus if they compete/officiate in NRHA Events, then they are facing an ineligibility period to participate in FEI Events of 6 months.

5.4. Consequences of Reining not being an FEI Discipline

If Reining would no longer be an FEI Discipline, NRHA would be the worldwide governing body for the sport and the NRHA Rules would apply for the Reining Competitions.

FEI would no longer sanction or organise any Reining Events or Championships and Reining Events would no longer appear in the FEI Calendar. Any CRIs/CRIOs entered in the FEI Calendar for 2020 would only be entered on a provisional basis pending the outcome of the FEI General Assembly vote in November 2019. FEI Headquarters would inform the concerned Organisers and FEI NFs accordingly.

As of 1 January 2020, no further FEI Reining Championships at either regional, continental or world level would be held.

Similar to other (non-FEI) equestrian disciplines, FEI NFs would be entitled to keep Reining as a national discipline and/or to be an international affiliate of NRHA (subject to fulfilling NRHA requirements).

Consequently, Reining Athletes, Horses and Officials would be entitled to participate in NRHA Events as there would no longer be FEI registered Athletes, Horses and Officials.

6. FEI BOARD RECOMMENDATION

At the FEI Board in-person meeting on 19 and 20 June 2019 the Discipline of Reining was discussed at length.

At this meeting, the Chair of the Reining Committee was invited and given the opportunity to submit a report and make a presentation to the FEI Board.

The Chair of the Reining Committee presented a 5 year plan, with a number of KPIs, for the development of the Discipline. The plan is entirely subject to reaching an agreement with NRHA whereby the latter would give a legally binding undertaking to comply with the FEI minimum standards regarding anti-doping, veterinary requirements, stewarding as well as the recognition of the FEI as the sole governing body worldwide for Competitions for Horses aged 7 years and older.

At this meeting the following points were also discussed:

- The Board was informed that, since the FEI Sports Forum in April 2019, a meeting could not be successfully arranged despite the numerous efforts and attempts by the FEI;

- The FEI Board was also informed about an official letter sent by NRHA to the FEI on 30 May 2019, explaining that due to the unique nature of NRHA, they feel they do not fit with the other models or relationships that exist with FEI and horse sport, and that they had, therefore, delegated to a third party (USA Reining) in relation to future communications with the FEI, without granting USA Reining decision-making power;

- The FEI Board recognised the unique nature of NRHA and AQHA, as well of the Discipline of Reining. At the same time, it also recognised NRHA's and AQHA's success in running the sport and their legitimacy to run and manage the sport according to their own rules and their own philosophy. Similarly, the Board recognised that NRHA and AQHA Reining is a sport which is mainly prize money driven while FEI Reining is based on sports performance;

- The FEI Board similarly recognised that FEI Reining, as any other FEI Discipline, must observe and comply with all FEI Rules and Regulations;

- Despite the numerous efforts and attempts made by the FEI since 2010 (and despite the progress made by NRHA in some areas), NRHA has never been able to fully comply with the FEI Rules and Regulations, particularly with the 4 points of the Cooperation Agreement that were communicated to NRHA and AQHA in 2017 (as referenced in section 3 above);

- Given the current structure of the Discipline, FEI Reining could not survive without the co-existence of NRHA. At the same time, the continuation of FEI Reining with no Cooperation Agreement with NRHA and AQHA breaches fundamental principles of the FEI Rules and Regulations and implies the application of the Unsanctioned Event rule;

- The removal of the Discipline of Reining from the FEI would not mean the disappearance of the sport, which could continue to be practised by the 229 FEI registered Athletes, Horses and Officials (in 2019) through their FEI NFs and NRHA.

As a consequence of all the above the FEI Board recommends the removal of Reining as an FEI Discipline as of 2020.

Any CRIs/CRIOs entered in the FEI Calendar for 2020 would only be entered on a provisional basis pending the outcome of the FEI General Assembly vote in November 2019. FEI Headquarters would inform the OCs and NFs concerned accordingly.