

Committee name	FEI Para Equestrian Dressage Committee
Date	8 October 2017
Chair	Amanda Bond

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Committee report	
Pt.	Subject
	REPORT OF THE FEI PARA EQUESTRIAN DRESSAGE COMMITTEE
1	<p>1.1 Para equestrian forum 2017: The second Para specific forum was successfully held in Stow-on-the-Wold (GBR) in May, kindly hosted by the British Federation. 70 delegates from 24 National Federations attended the two days of information exchange, discussion and practical demonstration. Key themes of this year's forum included sport development, competition formats, coaching and classification. The practical sessions introduced the new tests, with feedback from Judges, Coaches and Athletes. The Forum was followed by the two day in-person Technical Committee meeting, allowing for key themes to be discussed and actioned.</p>
2	<p>Development in Competition</p> <p>2.1 New competition format: Following the 2016 GA, the new competition format began its implementation. Regular CPEDI's continue with the traditional order of tests, but the introduction of the team competition being decided by the Team test only and individual competition by the Individual test was introduced at the European Championships. The order of tests ridden was also reversed, with the individual test being ridden first. The competition ran smoothly and was much simpler to understand. A small number of nations have fed back that they would prefer individual riders to have an opportunity to ride a second test (those who do not qualify for the freestyle).</p> <p>2.2 New grade names: The introduction of the re-naming of the Grades was implemented this year with no issues. The 1 – 5 system is much simpler for those not familiar with the sport.</p> <p>2.3 New tests: A complete new set of tests was introduced successfully and used in all Competitions and Championships this year. Further work is underway to develop an easier set of tests designed for youth / development competitions.</p>
3	<p>3.1 Global development and accessibility: A strategic priority for the committee is growth and development of the sport, in terms of participation levels and globalization. Ideas from the Forum have been further developed, looking at how to make competitions more viable for organisers and how to attract new participants. The following initiatives are being implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of officials: Many events outside of Europe attract low numbers of competitors, but are vital for attracting new participants. Therefore, the committee has reviewed the required number of officials at regular events. The use of a Technical Delegate is no longer compulsory (other than at Championships), in line with other disciplines. Classification will also be at the discretion of the OC and consequently the requirement for two classifiers to be present when Classification is not offered. Lastly, the number of FEI stewards will also be determined by the scale of event rather than stipulated.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of youth: Discussion at the Forum highlighted the need to provide for youth within the current structure. Whilst this is challenging due to small numbers at present, the Committee decided to reduce the minimum age for Classification and competition to 12 years old (from 14). A new, easier set of tests is also under development with view to introducing youth sections within current competitions. • New introductory tests: A new set of introductory level tests have been written and are currently in their final approval stage. It is hoped to introduce them in 2018. They will be used for youth development, but also as an introductory level in to the sport, likely at CPEDI 1* events. Additionally, Nations that do not have their own sport structure can use them nationally. <p>3.2 Growth in event numbers for 2018: Already the initiatives discussed to encourage more competition appear to be bearing fruit with a 76% increase in the number of events being offered for 2018 (a growth from 17 in 2017 to 30 in 2018). Six new nations are offering events next year, including a record 10 events outside Europe.</p>
4	<p>Classification: It has been an extremely busy yet productive year for the FEI Classification Working Group, with a number of key priorities furthered within the year:</p> <p>4.1 IPC Athlete Classification Code compliance: As previously reported, the IPC introduced a revised Athlete Classification Code requiring the FEI to ensure compliance. A self-audit was completed for the IPC in June this year. The FEI is still awaiting the outcome from the IPC</p> <p>4.2 Classification research: As part of the IPC Athlete Classification Code compliance, the FEI is required to work towards a classification system that is evidence-based supported by clear research. The research strategy developed by the FEI has been applauded by IPC and used to identify a short list of research bodies who have applied to undertake the study. The committee is currently conducting final interviews to award the project.</p> <p>4.3 Classification database: The FEI has developed a Classification data base with the support of the IT department. The web based database enables all records pertaining to an individual athlete's classification to be stored securely and then only accessed by FEI classifiers at competitions. This has streamlined the classification process and ensures compliance with the IPC Athlete Classification Code.</p> <p>4.4 Classification manual: The previous manual was re-written to provide one document relating to the classification process and a second document for use by the classifiers in regards to the Classification system for assessing athletes. This ensures compliance with IPC Athlete Classification Code and from 2018 the manual will be adopted as Rules.</p> <p>4.5 Education: All except four classifiers attended the 2 day Classifier's Seminar held prior to the Forum in May. One FEI Classifier Trainee was approved in 2017.</p>
5	<p>5.1 Association of Paralympic sports</p> <p>As a clear signal of the growing influence of the FEI and equestrian sport within the Paralympic movement, Secretary General, Sabrina Ibáñez was elected President of the newly formed Association of Paralympic Sports Organisations (APSO) in Abu Dhabi in September.</p>



<p>6</p>	<p>6.1 Work of the committee and HQ team: This was the first year of a new HQ Director, office team and Chair. Whilst this always causes some extra challenges, the team work very well together and great progress has been made in the year which the Committee wishes to thank the office for.</p> <p>Additionally, the Committee must be applauded for their extremely active involvement in developing the sport. A number of working groups, including those for Education, Tests, Compensating Aids and Development have been initiated, involving both committee members and other stakeholders, which has helped to deliver a number of key initiatives.</p> <p>Huge thanks go to outgoing committee member, Sue Cunningham (AUS) for her hard work and commitment to the committee over the last four years.</p>
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