All Equestrian sports have a risk component
Falls can happen at any time...
... and so can other accidents
Areas of concern

- Competition stress (alcohol, recreational drugs)
- Injury recovery
- General health, medication, TUEs
- Safeguarding (protection against abuse)
FEI & Athlete health:

- Eventing’s Risk Management policy
- Safety and sports equipment
- Medical rules
- Stakeholder information (FEI website: http://inside.fei.org/fei/your-role/medical-safety)
Why should we invest more in athlete health?

- Athletes are our assets (healthy athletes = better performances)
- Positive image of sport (athlete base, fan base, risk mitigation)
- It’s a core moral, ethical and legal obligation for sport governing bodies
The Bureau unanimously agreed to give a mandate to the FEI Medical Committee to address key areas (in priority order) and to develop the corresponding projects.
Bureau mandate to the Medical Committee

- Concussion
- Return to Play policy
- Injury reporting & surveillance
- Helmet rules
- Prize giving protocols
- Harassment & Abuse
- Recreational drug use at Events
1. Concussion

• **Current approach**
  - Information on the FEI's website (including guidelines for the management of concussion at FEI Events)
  - FEI sponsors the International Consensus Conference on Concussion since 2012

• **How it can be improved**
  - Education / encouraging use of concussion recognition and assessment tools (available on FEI website)
  - More user-friendly version of the guidelines for the management of concussion at FEI Events
2. Return to Play policy

- **Current approach**
  NFs are generally responsible to assess their athletes’ fitness to compete

- **How it can be improved**
  - Review and possibly complete existing regulatory frame
  - Provide best practice guidelines to NFs who do not have a return to play policy
3. Injury reporting & surveillance

• **Current approach**
  - Eventing Risk Management Policy
  - Other disciplines: basic injury report form in TD reports

• **How it can be improved**
  - All disciplines except Eventing: improve reporting forms; set criteria for follow up with athlete’s NF in case of serious accidents
  - Develop an injury surveillance system
4. Helmet rules

- **Current approach**
  - A common rule requires the use of helmets on the show grounds in all disciplines (article 140, GRs)
  - Additional discipline-specific rules also apply

- **How it can be improved**
  - Simplify rules; consider harmonizing to offer equal protection to all
  - Imposing helmet use also protects FEI and NFs from potential liability
5. Prize Giving protocols

• **Current approach**
  - Each discipline has its own protocols

• **How it can be improved**
  - Review all protocols to improve safety
  - This will also contribute to the image of the sport
Other areas of concern

• Harassment & Abuse
  - Research show a high prevalence across all sports
  - IFs have a duty to develop safeguarding policies
  - The FEI is currently working on its policy

• Recreational drug use at events
  - A health concern
  - A safety concern
THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

Questions, suggestions, concerns?

Medical Committee Chair: pnwhitehead72@gmail.com

FEI contact: Catherine.Bollon@fei.org