



**FEI HYBRID
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**
CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA
10-13 NOVEMBER 2022

FEI ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Cape Town (RSA), 13 November 2022

FEI President Ingmar De Vos opened the FEI Hybrid General Assembly in Cape Town (RSA) with a look back at all the achievements and key milestones of the equestrian family over the past year. He noted the many challenges that the equestrian community has faced and commended the community on its “powerful strength and resilience”.

The President encouraged everyone to look to the future and build on the successes of the FEI World Championships in Herning (DEN) and Pratoni del Vivaro (ITA).

“Every decision we make today at this GA, but also in our respective organisations and associations, has to be in the context of the future,” the FEI President said.

“There can be no complacency or reticence to change, to keep things as they are. Because the world is changing, the sporting, media and sponsorship landscapes are changing. And as a result the way we present and manage our sports also have to change.

“I want to preface this next part of my opening remarks to congratulate all the FEI members, Committee Members, official Stakeholders and FEI Headquarters staff for their contribution to solid governance and decision making protocols which have once again placed the FEI at the top of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) Governance Review.

“This is an achievement we can and should all be very proud of, and a rating which reflects much of the process at our General Assembly week – where dialogue, consultation and transparency take top priority in the decision making process. We don’t always agree – but fortunately we can talk about everything.”

The President was addressing an onsite audience of around 200 delegates in Cape Town (RSA), as well as a large online presence composed of public viewers and online delegates.

Full opening speech available [here](#).

MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE

The President asked delegates to join him in remembering cherished [members of the FEI and Olympic Family](#) lost in the past 12 months.

QUORUM

The Secretary General confirmed the required quorum is 69.

National Federations voting in-person in Cape Town (RSA): 66

National Federations voting online: 42

Total: 108

MEMBERSHIP

The National Federations of Lithuania, Iceland and Turkmenistan have been provisionally suspended due to non-payment of the Annual Membership Subscription Fee.

The General Assembly was informed that the National Federation of Malawi has withdrawn its membership from the FEI due to current economic conditions in the country.

MINUTES FEI HYBRID GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2021

The [Minutes of the FEI Hybrid General Assembly 2021](#) were unanimously approved

FEI ANNUAL REPORT 2021

The [FEI Annual Report 2021](#) was unanimously approved.

FINANCE

The FEI Chief Financial Officer (CFO) provided delegates with a detailed presentation on [FEI Finances](#), covering the years 2021 to 2022.

With energy prices sky rocketing, inflation and the tightening of credit conditions by central banks following the war in Ukraine, there is growing concern that economies around the world will turn into a recession in 2023. If this is the case, organisers, athletes and other stakeholders will be affected by general inflation and energy cost increase situations, which in turn will impact fan participation and potentially lower the number of events in 2023.

The CFO reported that the FEI has decided to take a conservative approach to the operational revenues for 2023 and has reduced some operational revenues assumptions by 10% compared to 2019. This concerns Organising dues, passports, and Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Program (EADMCP) fees.

By reducing revenues expectations, and with the goal of presenting a balanced budget, the FEI has carried out a thorough examination of its expenses. As expense reductions alone were not enough to balance the budget, the CFO has proposed releasing money from IT funds and from various provisions in the amount of CHF 3.2 million to achieve that goal.

The General Assembly approved the 2021 accounts and auditors' report, the Audit and Compliance Committee report, the appointment of FEI auditors, the revised budget for 2022, the 2023 financial charges and the 2023 budget.

FEI RULES AND REGULATIONS

The General Assembly approved the modifications to the FEI General Regulations, Anti-Doping Rules for Human Athletes, Equine Anti-Doping & Controlled Medication Regulations, Para Equestrian Classification Rules, Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Regulations, and the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Ranking Rules.

All changes can be viewed [here](#) in due course.

JUMPING

The Chair of the FEI Jumping Committee provided a brief overview of the Jumping Report. The discipline has seen a return to regular competition scheduling in 2022, although various countries still experienced Covid-19 travel restrictions with some cancellations seen at the beginning of 2022.

The staging of the ECCO FEI World Championships 2022 in Herning (DEN) for Jumping, the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ in Leipzig (GER) in April, and the 2022 Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ Final in Barcelona (ESP) in early October were hugely successful for the discipline.

The introduction of the FEI Veterinary Department's EHV-1 prevention protocol greatly reduced the risk of the outbreaks that were experienced in mainland Europe in 2021. All the 2022 Longines FEI Nations Cup™ events took place, with the exception of one leg that unfortunately had to be cancelled due to concerns about a local outbreak.

The FEI Jumping Committee found that the changes introduced to the fully revised 2022 Jumping Rules have enhanced the foundations of horse welfare and fair play in the Jumping discipline.

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

The Chair confirmed approval by the FEI Board of the Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ Rules 2023, Longines Global Champions Tour Rules 2023, Global Champions League Rules 2023, Longines EEF Series Rules 2023, FEI Jumping World Cup Rules 2022-2023, and FEI Nation's Cup Youth 2022 Rules.

In a separate vote the General Assembly approved the approval of a per diem for CSI3* Events in Europe & North America of €250 for President of the Ground Jury, Foreign Judge, Chief Steward, and Foreign Steward and a per diem of €175 for all other officials.

The General Assembly approved the modifications to the Jumping Rules.

All changes to the Jumping Rules can be viewed [here](#) in due course.

DRESSAGE

The Chair acknowledged the valuable discussions with National Federations and Stakeholders during the full revision of the Dressage Rules over the year.

As a discipline, Dressage is coming back up to its pre-Covid levels of activity and this year saw the successful organisation of 12 Championships and Games. This included the FEI Dressage World Championship 2022 in Herning (DEN), where 93 entries and 92 combinations started in the Grand Prix and which saw representation from all regional groups.

The Chair also highlighted the broader use of technology that has been used to support judges' education, including online judging practice for these Officials to remain active when unable to travel to Events. Other innovations over the course of 2022, included the creation of a new Ranking system that now includes a Ranking List for Athletes as well as Horses.

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

In the first of two separate votes, National Federations also voted in favour of including a Grand Prix option to CDI2* and CDIO2* at Senior Dressage Events and Championships (this GP will not count for MERs or World Ranking points). The vote was passed by 87 in favour, 4 against and 2 abstentions.

National Federations voted in favour of applying the level system to FEI Dressage Judges on the understanding that L4/5* reference will be used in official working documents such as events schedule, education system, seminars, courses. The vote was passed by 71 in favour, 19 against and 2 abstentions.

The General Assembly approved all modifications to the Dressage Rules.

All changes to the Dressage Rules can be viewed [here](#) in due course.

PARA DRESSAGE

The main focus of work for the FEI Para Dressage Committee for 2022 has been the full rules revision, with major amendments including the introduction of a new competition structure designed to provide a more progressive and appropriate entry level for those new

to the sport. In addition to the main discipline rule book, the Committee also carried out a review of the Classification rules and Paralympic regulations, and of the education systems for Judges, Stewards and Classifiers in Para Dressage. A new education programme will be launched in January 2023 which aligns with the other FEI disciplines.

A key component of the review processes were the Para Dressage Forum in January 2022 and the FEI Sports Forum in April, where the FEI Para Dressage Committee heard the views of the community on the rules revision, Para Dressage tests, education, classification, competition formats and ideas for the future development of the sport.

Moving forward, one of the Committee's main aims is to grow the discipline and attract more Athletes from new nations. Having received a positive response at the Forum, the Committee is now planning to introduce an FEI World Challenge for Para Dressage, in collaboration with the FEI Solidarity Department, and have drafted rules for the new competition to launch in 2023.

Alongside successful FEI Para Dressage World Championships held in Herning in August, all Individual and Team tests across all grades were observed (and received marks for their tests) using the Dressage Judging system. The Technical Committee will now decide if the "e-Dressage" system can be adopted for major Para Dressage Championships going forward.

The Chair also mentioned the Para Equestrian Digest started by the FEI Communications Department to bring attention to the social barriers that our Athletes face, while highlighting the therapeutic value of the horse-human connection. The Digest aims to keep Para Equestrian in the spotlight throughout the Paralympic cycle, rather than just focussing attention around the time of the Games.

The discipline has achieved another important international position with the appointment of Brazilian Athlete Rodolpho Riskalla to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Athlete's Council. Rodolpho was elected as one of only eight athletes elected from a nomination pool of 34 candidates.

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

The General Assembly approved all modifications to the Para Dressage Rules, including changes to the level system to FEI Dressage Judges that delegates voted for in the Dressage rules.

All changes to the Para Dressage Rules can be viewed [here](#) in due course.

EVENTING

The Chair of the FEI Eventing Committee provided an overview of the positive developments in the discipline, including the recovery in the number of events following Covid-19 and the successful FEI Eventing World Championship in Pratoni del Vivaro (ITA), referencing the podium where nations from three continents were represented. He also commended the Italian National Federation (FISE) for their support in the delivery of this important event, which was also attended by the IOC President Thomas Bach and an IOC delegation.

The Chair also referred to key points from the Eventing Committee Report, including details of the FEI Eventing Risk Management Programme; a report from the Event Risk Management Steering Group; the implementation of the new education system for 2023 and the roll-out of the Eventing Challenge urging National Federations to take advantage of this competition format.

The report also provides updates on the FEI Eventing Series and Championships held in 2022 and the FEI Eventing Officials Education System.

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

The General Assembly approved all modifications to the Eventing Rules.

All changes to the Eventing Rules can be viewed [here](#) in due course.

ENDURANCE

The Endurance Committee Chair noted several key Events held during 2022, which included several Endurance Championships for Juniors, Young Riders and Young Horses. The Chair also informed the General Assembly participants of the FEI Championship allocations for 2024.

The Chair confirmed that the FEI Endurance World Championship, originally allocated to Verona (ITA), will be held in Boudheib (UAE) following a decision at the FEI Board meeting on 10 November.

Later, the FEI Secretary General would thank all the bidders for the Championship and provide some additional insights into the conditions offered by the Organising Committee of the FEI Endurance World Championship in Boudheib (UAE), namely:

- No entry fee
- Flight transportation for horses from Europe and North America, as well as flights and accommodation for athletes and teams.
- An award for the Best Condition and prize money for all finishers.

The Committee Chair also noted that the Hyposensitivity Control Teams, and the new testing procedures, have been positively viewed by the community. Under the direction of the FEI Veterinary Department, horses have been tested at a range of Endurance competitions at all FEI Endurance Championships on different continents at 19 venues.

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

The General Assembly approved all modifications to the Endurance Rules.

All changes to the Endurance Rules can be viewed [here](#) in due course.

DRIVING & PARA DRIVING

The Chair informed the General Assembly that the Committee agreed to adapt the Pony Measuring system in order to better fit the practicalities of the Driving Discipline. Working closely with the FEI Veterinary Department and FEI Veterinary Committee, it was decided that Driving Ponies will be exempt from requiring an Interim or Lifetime Measuring Certificate for CA11*, CA12* and CA13* events unless a pony is suspected to exceed the regulatory height.

In the first of three separate votes, National Federations voted in favour of retaining the 2021 carriage minimum weight. The vote was passed by 72 in favour, 6 against and 11 abstentions.

National Federations also voted in favour of approving that organisers have the option of an 80x40m or 100x40m arena for all non-Championship Four-in-Hand Horses Events. The vote was passed by 73 in favour, 6 against and 11 abstentions.

In the third vote, National Federations voted in favour of a mandatory 100x40m arena for all Four-in-Hand Horses Championships. The vote was passed by 65 in favour, 6 against and 19 abstentions.

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

The General Assembly approved all modifications to the Driving and Para Driving Rules.

All changes to the Driving and Para Driving Rules can be viewed [here](#) in due course.

VAULTING

The focus of the Vaulting Committee's work during 2022 included the rollout of the new rules changes, updating of the Guidelines, and preparing new wording for the Technical Test exercises.

From February through May, the Committee tested the New Concept for a Free Test with the aim of incorporating this concept into the 2023 rules. The testing showed that there are still details that need to be worked out, and as a result the implementation of this concept was postponed.

The Vaulting Committee report also provided updates on its 2022 Open Online Forum, projects of the FEI education department, three online sessions for judges and the Annual FEI Vaulting Seminar.

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

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

VETERINARY

The FEI Veterinary Committee Chair provided updates on the key changes to the Veterinary Regulations which were subject to a full review this year. The General Assembly was informed that the sanction system (approved by the FEI GA 2021) was revised after concerns had been raised by Athletes and National Federations, and was implemented globally on 1 July 2022.

Due to vaccine shortage, a Board Emergency Resolution to derogate the booster intervals of vaccinations against Equine Influenza, was implemented on 1 October 2022. At their meeting on 13 November, the FEI Board decided to extend the derogation to 1 April 2023.

The FEI Veterinary Committee Chair also referred to the findings and results of the EHV-1 report published earlier this year as well as other related biosecurity matters included in the Committee report, as well updates on pony measuring, anti-doping and controlled medication testing, the FEI Equipment Expert Working Group and the education of Official Veterinarians.

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

The General Assembly approved all modifications to the Veterinary Regulations.

These changes can be viewed [here](#) in due course.

MEDICAL

The FEI Medical Committee Chair updated delegates on the education programme sessions that were held around the world, Athlete testing during 2022 and Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs).

The Chair reported that there will be a testing programme increase in 2023 and that the FEI Education programme is now mandatory under the WADA Standards for Education. He reminded National Federations of their critical role in helping athletes avoid doping violations by conducting anti-doping education.

The Chair also reported that as the Covid-19 pandemic has entered a phase of transition, Organising Committees are no longer required to submit a Covid-19 Mitigation plan along with the Event schedule but that they must still comply with applicable national measures.

The Chair provided an update of the International Conference on Concussions in Sport – where the FEI was a co-organiser and sponsor - which took place in Amsterdam (NED) on 27 and 28 October, discipline specific medical coverage requirements and other Medical Committee projects in development for 2023.

ATHLETES

The outgoing FEI Athletes' Committee Chair thanked her Committee, the FEI and all the members of the FEI Board and the community for their continued support and efforts to include the Athletes voice in the decision-making process. She underscored the important strides that had been made since becoming Athletes Committee Chair and underscored the importance of the Athlete Committee within the FEI Administration.

The FEI Athletes' Committee report is available [here](#).

FEI Secretary General Sabrina Ibáñez presented the new Athletes Committee, and the participation rate for the term 2022-2026 following the nomination and election process, where eligible Athletes are invited to present themselves and vote for their representatives.

She expressed disappointment that the voting participation rate was low despite the fact the voting system had been simplified, the number of athletes' eligible to vote increased and there was a significant communication's push.

FEI SOLIDARITY

The FEI Solidarity Committee report which includes a round-up of activities from September 2021 until mid-August 2022, updates on the Department's various projects, and information on the FEI World Challenges 2022 can be viewed [here](#).

Delegates also heard from the Secretary General of the Ukrainian Equestrian Federation and the Founder of the Ukraine Equestrian Charity Foundation Mykhaylo Parkhomchuk. He thanked the community for their support and assistance since the war in Ukraine.

The General Assembly approved the composition of the FEI Solidarity Committee as proposed by the FEI President, who is also Chair of the Committee.

The following members were appointed for a one-year term: Marjukka Manninen (FIN), EEF; Sadyr Mamytov (KGZ), Group III; Catherine Ramsingh-Pierre (BAH), Group IV; Juan Manuel Melgar Bardales (GUA), Group V; Luis Miguel Soria Céspedes (CHI), Group VI; Badr bin Mohamed Al-Darwish (QAT), Group VII; Mikaela Conjuangco Jaworski (PHI), Group VIII; Mary K. B. Binks (KEN), Group IX.

NOMINATIONS

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

ELECTIONS

Election of Scrutineers

Nara Ketusingha (THA) was approved as Chair of the Scrutineers, with Jukka Koivisto (FIN) and Glenda Warburton (Eswatini formerly known as Swaziland) confirmed as members.

FEI President, Board Member

FEI President Ingmar De Vos was elected with overwhelming support for a third and final term in office. President De Vos will complete his term in 2026.

In his acceptance speech, FEI President congratulated colleague Board Members that had been elected and re-elected, as well as all the other members elected during the 2022 elections and looked forward to working with them in the future.

"I am honoured and humbled to be your President for a third and final term!" Ingmar De Vos said immediately following his re-election.

"I ran unopposed, so this is not necessarily a surprise, but now it's very real, and it's an honour – so thank you for placing your trust in me and for confirming your confidence in the work we have done so far.

"We have shown our willingness to be more inclusive, and we are showing our commitment to our horses with the newly formed Equine Ethics and Wellbeing Commission. And this is all about the future. And the future is very much on my mind as I now embark on my final term in office. I am determined to leave a strong legacy that my successor and the community can continue to build on in the years to come."

A press release on the re-election of Ingmar De Vos for a third term can be found [here](#).

FEI Vice Presidents, Board Member

Mark Samuel and Jack Huang were re-elected FEI Vice-Presidents for the four-year term 2022-2026.

Regional Group Chairs and Deputy Chairs

EEF Regional Group: the election of **Theo Ploegmakers (NED)** as EEF Regional Group Chair was approved by the General Assembly for the four-year term 2022-2026. **Quentin Simonet (FRA)** was also approved by the General Assembly for the position of EEF Regional Group Deputy Chair for the four-year term 2022-2026.

FEI Regional Group VI: **Esteban Abedrabbo (ECU)** was elected as Chair, and **Gabriel Vidal (URU)** elected Deputy Chair of FEI Regional Group VI for the four-year term 2022-2026.

FEI Veterinary Committee Chair

Jenny Hall (GBR) was re-elected as Chair of the FEI Veterinary Committee for the four-year term 2022-2026.

Audit & Compliance Committee Member

Theola Barclay (ZAM) was re-elected Audit & Compliance Committee member for the four-year term 2022-2026.

FEI Tribunal Members

Two positions were in contention for the FEI Tribunal:

- **Brian Ward (CAN)** was elected FEI Tribunal member for the four-year term 2022-2026.
- **Diane Pitts (USA)** was **re-elected** FEI Tribunal member for the four-year term 2022-2026.

Nominations Committee Member

Guillermo Valente (URU) was elected to the FEI Nominations Committee for the term 2022-2023.

CLEAN SPORT

The report from the FEI Global Equine Anti-Doping Controlled Medication Programme (EADCMP), which includes data on FEI Global EADCMP 2021 testing, Hypo Sensitivity and Limb Sensitivity Control (HSC) examinations, as well as information on Doping and Controlled Medication Cases can be viewed [here](#).

INTERNATIONAL HORSE SPORTS CONFEDERATION (IHSC)

The Veterinary Director opened his presentation with an update of the ongoing activities between the World Organisation for Animal Health and the IHSC. He also informed delegates of the need for African Horse Sickness (AHS) vaccines, the availability of these vaccines in South Africa and potential mid to long-term solutions to solve the issue.

The IHSC AHS-vaccine working group, which is chaired by John McEwen, supports the South African Horse Industry Group in their work to resolve this acute situation, including seeking alternative AHS-vaccines. They will also look at ways to create awareness of the vaccines in the horse industry and public sector.

The report on the IHSC activities can be found [here](#).

OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC GAMES

As representatives for Paris 2024 were unable to attend the FEI General Assembly, a video providing an overview of the venue and preparations was shown to the General Assembly.

FEI MANAGEMENT

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

FEI TRIBUNAL

The Chair of the FEI Tribunal provided an overview of the FEI Tribunal decisions in 2022, as well as information on the Hearings, Preliminary Decisions, Agreements, CAS Appeals and Decisions. More details can be found [here](#).

EQUESTRIAN COMMUNITY INTEGRITY UNIT

Lord John Stevens, Chairman for Quest Global Ltd, presented the report of the Equestrian Community Integrity Unit, which is available [here](#).

WORLD HORSE WELFARE

Roly Owers, Chief Executive of the equine charity World Horse Welfare, spoke about what can be done to establish an even stronger horse/human relationship, and a fairer partnership, especially in horse sport. Owers congratulated the FEI for making social licence a priority issue by establishing the Equine Ethics and Welfare Commission (EEWB) independent Commission.

“The idea behind social licence is that we must be transparent, ethical and accountable for what we do. We must do right by our horses – and be seen to be doing so. If we are not, we risk losing our social licence and face dwindling support, and potential intervention by outside regulation.

“We must remember that we are in our own equestrian bubble and the outside world sees us differently. Some practices they question may be good and perfectly justifiable, but we must be honest with ourselves that there are some practices in some parts of the horse world that are simply unacceptable but still tolerated. This has to change – and to move forward we have to be honest with ourselves, be open minded and, most importantly, look at ourselves through an outsider’s lens to help us see what the world sees.

“To build trust we must first understand what values society has regarding the use of horses in sport and then communicate to them in the context of those values. But we must make sure our communications reflect reality – ‘welfare washing’ will not work and only erodes trust.”

FEI SPORTS FORUM & GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023

The FEI Sports Forum 2023 will be held in Lausanne (SUI) on 24 and 25 April 2023.

The Sessions for the FEI Sports Forum 2023 will include discussions on the report of the Equine Ethics and Wellbeing Commission, FEI Events Organisation, FEI Endurance Full Rules Revision, update on the Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ Series and a Progress report on Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Delegates were also informed that the FEI Hybrid General Assembly 2023 will take place from 17-21 November in Mexico City (MEX).

RECOGNITIONS

Outgoing Board members

- Luiz Roberto Giugni (BRA) – Chair Group VI – Term: 2011-2022
- Maria Gretzer (SWE) – Chair Athletes’ Committee – Term 2013-2022

The General Assembly confirmed the FEI Board's decision to appoint both Luiz Roberto Giugni and Maria Gretzer Honorary Board Members.

New Board members elected at FEI General Assembly 2022

- Esteban Abedrabbo (ECU) - Chair of Group VI

Delegates who have reached 15 (or more) participations at an FEI General Assembly in 2022 and present in Cape Town:

- Ken Lalo (ISR) – President of the NF

FEI Directors who are leaving

- Bettina De Rahm, FEI Director Dressage, Para Dressage, Vaulting

The FEI President offered special gifts to the President of the National Federation of South Africa Ian Sanne and Secretary General Sharlene Venter, thanking them for hosting the FEI Hybrid General Assembly in Cape Town.