



**REGIONAL GROUPS WITH THE BUREAU MEETING
MINUTES**

MONTEVIDEO (URU)

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Key:

I = Information/Discussion/Details

R = Resolution/Decision

T = Task

1. OPENING

The FEI President welcomed everybody. (I)

2. OLYMPIC GAMES QUALIFICATIONS - DRESSAGE

Further to the letter sent by Group C on the team slots allocation for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic qualification for Dressage, the following discussion raised with Regional group C (III) **(I)**:

Group C is grateful for support for new OG format, they confirmed that it was a big step for future and development of our sport. Regarding the qualification system, it was felt in general as very progressive for their region.

Group C however had one point to raise: for them the team quota distribution did not ensure a fair balance between high level sport and regional representation.

They proposed a revised distribution of the 15 slots for Teams as following:

- 1 for Host Country
- 7 from WEG

And the remaining 7 slots to be allocated as 1 slot for each Group (2 slots from 2019 European Championships to Groups A and B/ 2 slots from 2019 Pan-Am Games for Groups D and E / 1 slot for all other Groups, C, F, G).

Group C believed that this could be a solution which would work on the long term and therefore wanted to propose this for a vote at the GA. **(I)**

As this solution would impact on the allocation of team slots for Groups A and B (from the 2019 European Championships) and would change to 2 slots instead of 3, it was suggested that Group C should meet with Groups A and B to try and find a consensus. **(I)**

3. FOREIGN EXCHANGE FOR ORGANISING DUES AND CALENDAR FEES

The RSA NF was trying to promote the FEI in South Africa. Due to the unfavourable exchange rate with the CHF, the Organising Dues and the Calendar fees were very expensive in South African Rand (local currency). The RSA Delegate asked whether it could be a scale put in place / revision of these fees as, at this level, they prevented the organisation of more events. **(I)**

The FEI President thanks RSA NF for the question and requested the CFO to analyse the situation and check whether a proposal could be made in that sense. **(T-CFO)**

4. JUMPING

4.1. FEI Online Invitation System Roll-out

4.2. CSI Invitation system

The National Federation representatives were updated with a presentation about the roll-out of the FEI Online Invitation System. The presentation described a launch plan including two pilot phases, the organisation of workshops and online training sessions for NFs, Organising Committees and Athletes, followed by the full launch of the FEI Online Invitation System.

Note from FEI HQ: *The two Pilot Phases planned for **week 11** (12.03.2018 – 18.03.2018) and **week 21** (21.05.2018 – 27.05.2018) have been postponed by a few weeks in order to allow the FEI Online Invitation System to be thoroughly tested and to ensure that all technical aspects are functioning correctly. Therefore the full launch of the FEI Online Invitation System will not be implemented on 30 July 2018 as stated in Annex V of the FEI Jumping Rules 2018, but at a later stage once the FEI Online System is fully operational (the final date to be confirmed shortly). In the meantime and until then the 2016 CSI Invitation Rules will apply. **(I)***

Following the presentation some questions were raised. **(I)**

Murray Kessler, President of the USA NF requested to make sure that the information regarding the application or non-application of the FEI Online Invitation System is clearly mentioned in each Event Schedule to avoid any doubts for Athletes and National Federations. The FEI Head of IT confirmed that the information would be clearly mentioned in the Event Schedule and that the information would also be communicated by email to National Federations and Athletes. **(T)**

Abid Salim Khan Tarin, Secretary General PAK NF, asked what would happen for National Federations of region where no physical workshop would be organised.

The FEI Head of IT explained that online training sessions would be organised at different times to accommodate all National Federations and to ensure that each country would have the possibility to learn about the new system. **(I)**

Michael Stone, Event Organiser, asked for a clarification on how the CSI Invitation rules applied when there were two events organised at the same venue on the same weekend. The FEI Head of IT explained that there would be two different options for the event organiser. The event organiser could consider these two events as two stand-alone events and in that case two invitation processes would be applied in parallel, without any links between the two events. Or the event organiser could decide to group the two events and Athletes receiving invitations for the highest star level event would have the option to also accept an invitation for the other event. **(I)**

4.3. Longines Ranking Rules

The Delegates were updated with some facts and figures about the influence of the different CSI5* events on the position of Athletes in the Longines Rankings, the presentation included comparisons and impacts of Global Champions Tour events and the amount of ranking points earned by athletes. **(I)**

Quentin Simonet, representative of the FRA NF, mentioned that FRA NF would like to make sure that the top level of the sport was guaranteed for athletes, without them having to pay any fees in addition to entry fees. **(I)**

Sönke Lauterbach, Secretary General GER NF, asked for details of how many Athletes were going up in the ranking and how many athletes were going down in the ranking in the period which was studied and presented. The FEI Head of IT answered by presenting an additional slide where the details were mentioned. **(I)**

Ulf Helgstrand, President of DEN NF, asked not forget about the influence of an Athlete having one or many top level horses, allowing him to compete a lot at top level events and as a consequence making it easier to get more Longines Rankings points. The FEI Head of IT answered that of course this may have an influence but that was not part of the study presented. **(I)**

4.4. Availability of Course Directors at Level 1 and Cost Structure

Col. Swain, Secretary General IND NF requested that the costs connected with hosting Level 1 Judges courses in his region be reduced by allowing Level 3 Judges from the region to direct Level 1 courses. He felt that Level 1 Judges were treated more as national Judges than international Judges. **(I)**

He felt that as far as Level 2 Judges courses were concerned the FEI should continue to appoint the Course Director but the FEI should cover the flight and remuneration costs. Accommodation, meals and local transport costs would be the responsibility of the hosting NF. **(I)**

The FEI Director of Education and Standards informed the General Assembly that as of 2018, the FEI would take over the responsibility of covering the flight and remuneration costs for such courses. He also mentioned that it would not be possible to have an FEI course for Level 1 judges directed by non FEI Course Directors and have the participants recognised afterwards as FEI officials. **(I)**

The FEI course material for Level 1 courses could be used for national courses. **(I)**

In addition, officials now had the possibility of taking a Level 1 judges' course on line on FEI campus which was linked with the officials' education process. **(I)**

He emphasised that the FEI was committed to having the best Course Directors directing FEI courses. **(I)**

4.5. Longines FEI World Cup Jumping Final Subsidies

Withdrawn at the request of Group VII. **(I)**

5. EVENTING

5.1. Eventing Risk Management

Statement by the Chair of Eventing Committee

On the request of a Representative of Group VI, the Chair of the Eventing Committee provided the following update on frangible technology and current developments and expected benefits within the overall Risk Management program. **(I)**

The first and most important objective of FEI Eventing Risk Management was the reduction of rotational horse falls. During the last 10 years, the percentage on starters of horse falls has been halved. **(I)**

Risk Management is about many different actions, preventive actions and protective actions. However how much each individual action had contributed to this reduction was difficult to evaluate. **(I)**

The holistic approach had proved to be successful. Eventing would never be a zero risk sport and the subject was of course very emotional. Each serious accident was devastating and brought us back to square one. However if reviewed factually the numbers were clear indicators. **(I)**

Frangible technology was one of the many different actions contributing to the Risk management. To date, the current technology/generation of frangible was giving a contribution however it was not a magic solution as they would not change dramatically the situation. **(I)**

This was the reason why the FEI Eventing Committee had not made the use of these frangible technology compulsory as there was not strong factual evidence that their contribution would be important enough to justify a mandatory request of their use. The FEI Eventing Committee was open for proposals and was following the evolution closely and was supportive of the decision of National Federations use such devices as it would help the creation of a new generation of frangible technology which could give more benefits. **(I)**

The President commented that the Charles Barnett Risk management audit of 2016 reported in the conclusions that the frangible pins were not necessarily safer than non-frangible fences. He added that the FEI needed to communicate better and not only when something dramatic happens. The FEI had invested a large amount of money over the last 15 years in the Eventing Risk Management program to produce analysis, statistics with University Professors etc. and the information needed to be better shared, i.e. the risk of a fatality had drastically been reduced and this message needed to be conveyed together with the fact that it was a risk sport but all efforts were made to ensure that the risk was reduced to a minimum. **(I)**

The Chair of Eventing explained that the evidence of use of frangible devices was contradictory which was probably linked to the fact that any Risk Management mitigation action was always associated with secondary risks. Something that looked like a good mitigation would produce a different risks factor and the final result could be difficult to assess. This was the reason a governing body cannot make something mandatory if the full and complete evidence was not forthcoming that the decision would lower the risk. **(I)**

The Representative from the USA NF explained that more research needed to be done, as there were more factors to take into consideration which could produce the result of a fall than whether the fence was frangible or not. Studying and tracking those factors were as important as any other part of the equation. Being able to study and track that worldwide was essential to allow the decisions made to be realistic according to the total picture. The accuracy of the data must be consistent to allow the decisions that were made or the realistic look of the total picture was true. The FEI was working on obtaining consistent data worldwide to allow decisions to be justified by real data and adding the consideration of other factors (weather, fence design, etc). The frangible technology's first objective was to reduce rotational as this was considered the highest risk, torsional falls now needs to be added. **(I)**

The Chair of Jumping commented that the methodology which was used and the holistic view of the Risk Management program was very important to all disciplines. One action created a different action. The Eventing approach to Risk Management must be supported as this approach was excellent and should be used elsewhere. **(I)**

6. ENDURANCE

6.1. FEIs vision on the future of Endurance and it's reflection on rules changes - Maj Yap Mou Soon (MAS)

The FEI President invited Maj Yap Mou Soon (MAS) to address the matter to the Bureau. **(I)**

Maj Yap said that after the Endurance Forum in Barcelona (ESP) the FEI must have a vision of what were the key resolve areas in Endurance, such as the increase of speeds and injuries, a key resolve area with KPIs must be set, a road map was needed for the Endurance department and also a benchmark as a vision. **(I)**

Maj Yap thought it was very important as it had impact in the rules changes and transformation of the sports should be handle carefully, Group VIII supported these changes but needed a clear vision of what should be achieved. **(I)**

The FEI President informed that the vision was not an issue as we had a very thorough process with the ESPG and the Task Force. He invited the Chair of the Endurance Committee to confirm the vision behind and the Technical Committee views. **(I)**

The Chair thanked Maj Yap for bringing this question that covered many areas, the FEI was thinking of the future, rule changes and development. **(I)**

As the President mentioned around 4 to 5 years ago a deep analysis of Endurance was carried out and a Business plan was set, it was a seven points plan with 45 recommendations **(I)**:

1. Development of Endurance, a vision, values and success factors;
2. Growth of Endurance;
3. Horsemanship and education;
4. Rules to monitor and make changes regularly;
5. In competition action;
6. Finance and sponsorship;
7. Marketing and communication.

Essentially three major topics; education, accountability of officials and of course and most important the horse welfare. **(I)**

So far the seven points and the recommendations had been implemented and some were still in progress. **(I)**

A second part of the business plan talked about our vision to ensure that an endurance athlete competed, completed and maintained the highest standards of horsemanship. **(I)**

Also the sustainability of the sport operating on FEI Code of Conduct for the welfare of the horses. **(I)**

The vision aimed to good quality competition, good quality venues, honest competition and Officials that would do their job properly and were accountable. **(I)**

The Headquarters was working on a marketing strategy. **(I)**

No further questions or comments were raised. **(I)**

6.2. Development – Dr Gahnem Al Hajiri (UAE)

The FEI President invited the Secretary General (SG) of the UAE NF Dr Gahnem Al Hajiri (UAE) to address the matter to the Bureau. **(I)**

The UAE SG thanked for the opportunity to raise such an important matter as increasing number of participants around the world in Endurance had concerns about the future of the sport and he thought that it was time to pay attention to the rules and the way the rules were implemented and enforced. **(I)**

Over the past two years the UAE NF had organised Educational Courses and Seminars. During these events many questions had been raised concerning the rules. At times the UAE NF had been unable to justify the trainers, athletes and owners the reasons behind certain rules.

A lot of money had been invested in the sport and the concerned stakeholders would appreciate if the rules were seen from a different angle, allowing them the opportunity to contribute in the discussions. **(I)**

The UAE NF SG, therefore strongly recommended that the Endurance Committee include those trainers and people from the field before taking any decision on the rules. During the successful Endurance Forum in Barcelona (ESP) there had been considerable contribution from all those who cared about the sport, but there had not been enough. **(I)**

The UAE NF SG asked that there be more time to discuss proposals to ensure that whatever was put forward to the General Assembly had the consensus of all stakeholders and proposed that there be a seminar or taskforce in order to prepare a proper vision and a master plan for Endurance. He extended an invitation to host such an event in the UAE. **(I)**

The FEI President thanked and congratulated the UAE NF SG for what he was doing in the Emirates for the last years to improve and control the sport and

agreed that it was important to continue the dialogue and to be transparent and democratic. **(I)**

The Chair of the Endurance Committee commented that the process had started in Barcelona and explained that a Forum did not in shine any decision, however, it did allow the Technical Committee to gather opinion as to the direction to be taken. **(I)**

The FEI Secretary General added that it been the first time in seven years that the FEI organized an Endurance Forum which was long overdue. The FEI knew that there was a need for it was happy to have had the participation of NFs, Athletes, Organisers, Veterinarians specialists, etc. in Barcelona.

The proposed modifications to the FEI Endurance Rules had followed the normal consultation process, NFs had been provided the drafts in July 2017, and had reverted to the FEI with their comments. These had been considered by the Technical Committee (NF comments received were included in the annexes). The proposed modifications would be discussed again during the Rules Session in the afternoon. **(I)**

The FEI President agreed that discussions should continue and confirmed that the FEI was happy to have an Endurance Conference organized in the UAE. **(I)**

6.3. Voting on Rules /Endurance Rules - Dr Gahnem Al Hajiri (UAE)

The FEI President asked the UAE NF SG if the previous point covered this point and informed him that if needed a separate vote for the rules would be held for the approval of the rules. **(I)**

7. GOVERNANCE PRESENTATION

The FEI Senior Legal counsel gave a presentation on the FEI governance within the framework of the ASOIF (Association of Summer Olympic International Federations) governance taskforce. No question were raised. **(I)**

8. FEI SOLIDARITIY PROGRAMME – AVAILABILITY & CAPACITY – SUD NF

The Representatives of Sudan, Mr Rafat Awad and Ghazi Hamad, informed the Bureau that their country had identified no less than 1.6 million horses. They insisted on the great potential of development of equestrian sport in their country. They asked the FEI to help the SUD NF via the FEI Solidarity programme, to make a state of the situation and establish a road map. **(I)**

9. HORSE WELFARE – COMPILATION OF STATISTICS WILL CONNELL (USA)

Will Connell the delegate from the USA NF explained the huge and challenging task for NFs to be able to be responsible for the fitness and preparedness of human and equine athletes. In order to assist the NF's in this task he requested that the FEI should timely report injuries and also compiled data of those and share with the NF's. The President expressed his understanding of this request and also explained that NF's had the exclusive right to enter human and equine athletes to events and that with this exclusivity there also comes a responsibility.

The President informed about the IT-development, for example digital Veterinary Reports that allowed compiled statistics and expressed the possibility to share annual statistics with the NFs. The USA delegate was positive to this suggestion but requested especially timely information shortly after an injury to ensure that for example an injured rider would not be entered. The FEI Legal Director informed that the Bureau had given the Medical Committee a task to come up with guidelines on human injuries and that in regards of the horses there was already a measure in place, the Horse Inspection, where an injured horse would be stopped from competing. The Chair of the Eventing Committee informed that Eventing already had a protocol in place. Following this protocol the NF's were informed about injuries from a certain level shortly after they had occurred. The President concluded by stating that the FEI would be happy to produce such a protocol for all disciplines. **(I)**

10. GLOBAL EQUINE DISASTER RESPONSE PROTOCOL E. VAN DEN BOL (CAY)

Eve Van den Bol presented how the Category 5 Hurricanes Irma and Maria hit the Caribbean Islands earlier in 2017 and how the Cayman NF together with the USEF, CAN NF and PAEC provided aid to the impacted horses. Mrs Van den Bol explained that a Category 5 Hurricane had devastating short and long term impacts on horses on the islands by causing damage to infrastructure as well as depriving them of their normal sources of forage and fresh water. The joint group gathered in total 200 000 USD from contributors, among them the FEI was the main provider of aid for 9 United States Islands. Other organisations were also active but mainly on the larger islands and for thoroughbred horses. Private initiatives did also occur. A problem was duplication of work. Mrs Van den Bol believed that this could be avoided by coordination. She found it very difficult to find reliable partners on the ground and there had to be different partners and solutions for all islands depending on each islands unique infrastructure, mix of horses and issues. It was also difficult to find out how many horses needed aid and where the holdings of those horses were. No registers or publications were available and the work had to be done by searching on social media etc. Mrs Van den Bol expressed her wish that the lessons learned from these catastrophes

should not be lost and that they could be of benefit for horses that were at risk for natural disasters in all parts of the world. She concluded the main difficulties to be find out what, how much and to whom the aid should be provided. Mrs Van den Bol finally asked what role the FEI wished to play in such situations. She expressed that her view on that would be as a partner with other organisations and offered her help in the future work. **(I)**

The President thanked Mrs Van den Bol and Marc Samuels for their actions taken to provide aid to horses in the Caribbean and that the FEI took on board her comments. He asked Mrs Van den Bol to prepare a memo and that the Headquarters would ensure that she got in contact with Roly Owers at World Horse Welfare. The President explained that the FEI was willing to work on this topic and that following the delivery of the memo, he would be willing to raise the question internationally within the International Horse Sport Confederation. **(I)**