

JUMPING CALENDAR TASK FORCE'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AN IMPROVED JUMPING CALENDAR

Dear National Federations,
Dear Stakeholders,

In 2020, 2021 and 2022 due to Covid-19 and EHV-1 and the subsequent postponement and cancellation of many Events worldwide the FEI put into place a number of more flexible measures to allow NFs to include dates of Events in the FEI Calendar.

We propose to continue to apply a certain degree of flexibility such as the possibility to include more than one date for an Event in the FEI Calendar and not to penalise NFs/Organisers when they are forced to cancel due to *force majeure* incidents, yet provide the Equestrian community with a more realistic Calendar and sense of certainty for non-force majeure related cancellations/postponements.

The past few years we have seen that the late cancellation/late downgrade of CSI Events, particularly CSI3*, CSI4* and CSI5* Events, have caused significant disruption to a range of stakeholders, for example:

- Athletes who would have expected to receive an invitation to the Event (based on their Longines Ranking) need to revise their proposed travel and Event plans;
- NFs who would have expected to enter their Athlete(s) in the Event and who were intending to use the Athletes(s)' performance in that Event for selection purposes for upcoming Championships/Nations Cups, etc. are adversely impacted;
- Any Organiser that respect the FEI Rules.

There have been certain abuses regrettably to the system. A perfect example occurred this year with an Organiser cancelling 29 Events in the FEI Calendar (not due to force majeure) that were scheduled to take place (of these cancelled Events, 6 were cancelled after the allocation of invitations by the FEI Invitation System and 1 Event was downgraded in star level just before the allocation of invitations).

In order to deter this from occurring again and provide a more realistic and accurate FEI Calendar, the FEI held a first meeting with the FEI Jumping Calendar Task Force¹ on 13 May 2022 where a number of recommendations were agreed upon. After an initial consultation of

¹ The Discipline specific FEI Calendar Task Forces were created by the FEI Board on 24 March 2020 to evaluate the impact on the FEI Calendar of the Covid-19 pandemic, which resulted in multiple Event cancellations.

The Calendar Task Forces, which are chaired by the FEI Secretary General, are composed by a number of key stakeholders to guarantee sound and effective discussions, namely: the FEI Vice Presidents, the European Equestrian Federation President, the Chair of the relevant Technical Committee, the President of the Equestrian Organisers, 1 representative of Athletes by Discipline, the relevant FEI Sports Director, the FEI Calendar Administrator, the FEI IT Representative and the FEI Legal Representative.

The Task Forces do review FEI Calendar related issues caused by the Covid-19 virus, and not only, and make recommendations to the FEI Board and relevant Technical Committees on ways to address them.

Although initially created because of Covid-19 pandemic, the Calendar Task Forces have revealed to be useful and has enhanced the FEI consultation process consequently they will remain in place until further decision from the FEI Board.

these recommendations with the FEI Board at its Teleconference on 25 May 2022, a second round of discussion were scheduled on 7 June 2022 which include the FEI Jumping Calendar Task Force, which were joined by representatives of Organisers and Athletes².

These recommendations were finally presented and received the support of the FEI Board at its in person meeting at the FEI Headquarters on 21 and 22 June 2022.

A summary of these recommendations are listed below (the full details may be found [HERE](#)):

- **Increase the Calendar Application Fee and Late date/Date change to the Approved Calendar for 4* & 5* Jumping Events taking place as of 1 January 2024:**
 - o As these fees have remained unchanged for more than 20 years.
- **Calendar Application for a 3*, 4* and 5* Jumping Event taking place on or after 1 January 2024 will be subject to the payment of a deposit (a "Calendar Application Deposit"):**
 - o The Calendar Application Deposit will be credited against the related Organising Dues payable to the FEI after that Event has taken place;
 - o In case of cancellation of the Event, the Calendar Application Deposit will be lost and will not be credited (unless cancellation is due to Force Majeure);
 - o Calendar Application Deposits also apply to Late Date Applications.
- **A Cancellation Fee will be charged for 4* and 5* Events that are cancelled close to the date of Event:**
 - o No Cancellation Fee where an Organiser cancels an Event more than 12 weeks in advance of the Event for the first time;
 - o The closer to the date of the Event the higher the Cancellation Fee;
 - o No Cancellation Fee for Force Majeure cancellations;
 - o No Cancellation Fee or consequences apply for the cancellation of other Jumping Events or for Events in any categories in the other FEI Disciplines.
- **Incremental (cumulative) Cancellation Fee will be imposed after the 1st cancellation by the same Organiser.**
- **Date Applications for 5* Jumping Events only changed to 1 May (the year before the Event takes place), rather than 1 October two years before the Event. 5* Dates must be confirmed by the NFs/Organisers by 1 June (the year before the Event takes place).**
 - o FEI Secretary General to approve the 5* Calendar by 31 July in principle the year before the Event takes place.

² Following Organisers and Athletes were invited: **A) ORGANISERS:** Peter Bollen, Bram Vandewalle, Daniela Garcia Nigaglione, Ian Allison, Marco Danese, Michael Stone, Tom Gordin, Tomas Torgensen, Irene Verheul (excused), Jakob Leth (excused), Nayla Stoessel (excused), Annemiek van der Vorm (excused); **B) ATHLETES:** Pedro Veniss and Francois Mathy (excused).

(IMPORTANT: As a rule change to the new deadline will require approval by the FEI General Assembly in Cape Town (RSA) in November 2022, we urge NFs to send in their dates for their 5 Events in 2025, by the current deadline: 1 October 2023.)*

- **Date Applications for all other Events and other Disciplines remain unchanged (i.e. 1 October the year before the Event takes place).**
- **A more comprehensive definition of Force Majeure to be added to the General Regulations.**
- **New definition of a “Related Organiser”**
 - o A definition has been proposed to specifically address those Organisers who seek to avoid the application of FEI rules by creating new entities and/or those Organisers that file for bankruptcy and do not to pay outstanding invoices, prize money, per Diems, etc and wish to organise under another entity.

Lastly, FEI will organise two on-line meetings with NFs on **20 July** 15h CEST and **18 August** **10h CEST** in order to thoroughly explain the rationale and receive feedback. During the FEI General Assembly a specific session will be also organised on 12 November 2022 to go through the proposals, the feedback received by NFs and Organisers by 30 August 2022 (as part of the [FEI Rules Revision Process](#)) and answer any remaining questions.

With kind regards,

Sabrina Ibáñez
FEI Secretary General