

## OLYMPIC GAMES & PARALYMPICS QUALIFICATION

8 April 2013

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### **1. FEI Evaluation London 2012**

Ingmar De Vos, FEI Secretary General introduced the Olympic Games and Paralympic qualification subject by reviewing the reasons of the success of Equestrian Sports at the 2012 London Olympic Games.

The importance of having Equestrian sports back at the heart of the Olympic Games and the great work of the Organising Committee allowed the sport to be a success (having had venues in the past Olympic Games in distant locations away from the main sports). Greenwich allowed an iconic location. The disciplines were each very successful from a technical point of view, the highest level of sport, the world's best athletes and horses were present. Spectators filled the field of play/stadium for each competition. The volunteers including the army brought in to ensure the security checks need were underlined as outstanding. The new global dimension of communication including the first

truly social media Games was highlighted and a completely clean Games had been the best possible endorsement of the FEI's Clean Sport Campaign.

Lessons were also learnt allowing the FEI to move forward. An extensive internal debrief with all parties had been made and would be shared with future organisers. It was important that the FEI establish clear technical requirements for the future including footing requirements. In addition, the different disciplines needed to be harmonised for better understanding by the general public. The fine tuning of the Olympic regulations and qualification procedures taking into account the different issues that occurred for 2012 would be part of the overall review. The transfer of knowledge from one Olympic Games to another was important, which included the appointment by the FEI of a Games and Championships Director to work on future Olympic and Paralympic Games and major FEI Championships.

## **2. IOC Evaluation of Equestrian at London 2012**

Christophe Dubi, IOC Sports Director, presented an evaluation of London Olympic Games from the IOC perspective. He stated that from the media and television perspective, London was a success with the best spectators figures ever with with ticket sales at 97% overall and more than 99% for the equestrian events at Greenwich.

He commented on Equestrian sport uniqueness within the Olympic Games as a sport with very specific demands, settings and criteria but bringing a passionate and unified equestrian community. Equestrian sport was one yet the individual disciplines bringing diversity for both athlete and spectator and this could be built on to raise even more the interest of viewers.

It was confirmed that equestrian sport was part of the 25 sports recommended by the IOC Executive Board to be included on the core Programme for 2020 that would be voted en-bloc at the IOC Session in Buenos Aires (ARG) next September.

The IOC Sports Director also spoke about the importance of harmonisation across the disciplines to make equestrian sport more readily understood from an IOC perspective and for the general public.

Sport presentation had become a key asset, and the branding of Equestrian was as important as the sports presentation, which could be seen as a revolution inside the sport, but from the outside was seen as evolution, and central to the development of the sport.

### **Olympic Coverage - New Era**

- Global Reach: 4.8 billion people
- 100'000 hours available
- 5'600 hours produced
- IOC / Olympic Broadcasting Services (OBS) Responsibility

### **Timeline for Rio Qualification Systems**

- Aug 2013: Principles approved by IOC Executive Board (EB)
- Aug-Dec 2013: Development of Qualification System (QS) between International Federations (IFs) & IOC Sport
- Feb 2014: Approval of IFs QS by IOC EB

### **3. FEI Timelines & Challenges**

Ingmar De Vos explained the different timelines that would apply.

The harmonisation of the composition of teams in the three disciplines and the quota shift as a result of this must be submitted to the IOC following the discussions at this FEI Sports Forum.

The FEI timeline for discussions on the general and Discipline specific qualification system starts at the time of this Sports Forum taking on board all comments, concerns, recommendations and will be further discussed at a special session during the General Assembly in November 2013 where the proposal for the IOC will be finalised. Stakeholders were urged to continue the debate on the dedicated Online Platform.

He explained that further to the clear message from the IOC no increase on the overall quota for equestrian sport of 200 athletes would be accepted.

The parameters we cannot change are the following:

- The quota will not rise and the 200 Athletes will be maintained as per previous editions;
- Equestrian Sport is growing both in absolute numbers and geographically;
- A balance between universality and performance must be found and maintained.

Within these parameters the best balance between universality and performance needed to be found to give equal chances to all regions. There was no perfect solution, but it was important to have an active debate in order to make sure all points of views are taken into consideration and reach a consensus within the Equestrian community. The credibility of that community and of the sport depends on the ability to put aside national interests and stand together behind a unified proposal for the IOC.

### **4. Harmonisation of Rules for the Three Disciplines**

Ingmar De Vos, presented the main changes to bring inline the three Olympic disciplines addressing the new situations after London 2012. This included the fine tuning of qualification systems in the three disciplines, harmonise the rules between disciplines also to make easier understanding for public at large.

To ensure that there is no change in the number of nations that qualify for the 2016 Olympic Games, and that the three Olympic disciplines align teams to a four athletes with the three best scores to count, the proposed quota shift includes:

- Jumping quota of athletes to remain at 75, Eventing reduce to 65 (from 75 in 2012) to allow Dressage numbers to increase to 60 (from 50). It was highlighted that the simulation of the new quota distribution for Eventing, based on the 2012 Olympic Games figures, would not have altered the number of qualified nations.

## **5. General Principles For the Qualification Procedure for the three disciplines**

Catrin Norinder, FEI Director Olympic Games & Eventing explained the main proposals for a common approach to the qualification procedures for the three Olympic disciplines.

This included the structure of Teams, 4 athletes per team and 1 drop score (moving from 5 athletes in Eventing and 3 in Dressage).

Quota shift to maintain the qualification of same number of nations (Jumping = 75; Dressage > 60; Eventing < 65). This proposal was included the possibility of 1 reserve horse for each qualified team (new for Eventing).

Each nation would have 2 chances to qualify as team at the World Equestrian Games and Continental Championships or selected FEI events.

Individuals qualify through Olympic Rider Rankings which was proposed also for Jumping, and a dedicated Individual place for each of the 7 Regional groups to fulfil the universality criteria.

After review no change to the FEI regional group concept for 2016 is proposed and the current system could be improved after review.

No change to competition formats was proposed, and the principle of each athlete only earn 1 quota place would be integrated in the 3 disciplines qualification procedure.

Qualification deadlines to be confirmed with IOC and RIO2016.

Brazil (Host nation) automatically qualified with a Team and all competing Athletes and horses must have achieved min. eligibility standards

## **6. Legal Perspective**

Mikael Rentsch, FEI Senior Legal Counsel, presented the main suggestions from a legal perspective.

**Qualifying Events:** Must be entered in the FEI Calendar in accordance with the relevant FEI Calendar deadlines (at the latest by 1 October unless an earlier date is specified by the relevant Sport Rules). No new Events added to the Calendar after the deadline, unless there is a Force Majeure event and subject to FEI's approval.

2015 Qualifying Events list to be published by the end of 2014 and 2016 Qualifying Events list to be published by the end of 2015.

The list of Events for Athletes and Horses to obtain Quota Places (individual qualification) through Olympic Rankings to be respected and exceptions avoided. Even exceptions that have an indirect impact on selection should be avoided.

**Horses – Nationality:** Horses entered for the Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games must have been registered with FEI as property of owners of the same nationality as the Athlete, by 15 January 2016. (Note: For the previous Olympic Games, the deadline was 31 December of the year preceding the OG).

**Athletes – Nationality Changes:** Any Athlete changing his/her sport nationality during the Olympic Qualification period will be removed from the Olympic Individual Rankings.

In addition and further to the recommendation of the IOC, only Athletes who can represent country X in the Olympic Games according to the IOC nationality's requirements shall be allowed to earn a quota place for such country X.

**Disqualification for Doping/Medication Matters:** Disqualification for doping/medication matters (and especially team disqualification): Same Rules as for the London 2012 Olympic Games.

## 7. Specific Discipline Qualifications

### JUMPING

John Roche, FEI Director, Jumping presented the modifications proposed to the Jumping Qualification System.

Total number of athletes 75 (teams and individuals), the same number would be maintained as for previous Olympic Games.

For the **Team Qualification** – Jumping, it is suggested that the number of teams would be increased from 15 (in 2012) to 16 teams. The total number of horses 75 (+16 reserve horses) – an increase of one due to an additional team.

The proposal included one dedicated team place from Group C from the Group C Olympic Qualification event and two dedicated teams places from Group G from the Group G Olympic Qualification event.

For the Individual Qualification – Jumping, 11 Individuals would qualify (reduced from 15 in 2012 as a result of the one additional team) same system as for Dressage and Eventing.

7 Individuals, one from each regional group. NOCs would be selected by taking the best placed competitor for each regional group on the FEI Olympic Athletes Ranking. Substitutions would be taken from the same regional group.

4 NOCs of the 4 best ranked individuals from the FEI Olympic Athletes Ranking.

## **EVENTING**

Catrin Norinder, FEI Director, Eventing explained the changes proposed to the Eventing Qualification System.

No additions of Events will be accepted after the yearly publication of the selected Events calendar and all 3 star events counting for eligibility and qualification of nations will be on established and experienced events with a proven organisational record at the 3 star level.

The total number of athletes would be set to 65 (+11 reserve horses)

For the **Team Qualification – Eventing**, 11 teams (directly qualified- no change)

Brazil as Host nation is allocated an automatic Team place and if not used, the place will be allocated to the best placed from Group D & E from the Pan American Games.

6 team places from the 2014 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games (from 5 in 2012), and 1 team place from group D & E from the Pan American Games to take into account the automatic qualification of the host nation.

**Individual Qualification – Eventing** (No change to the qualification from Rankings)

It was clarified that should a nation qualified from one of the 7 dedicated Individual group places be unable to use the allocated quota place, it will be re-allocated to the NOC of the next placed athlete within the group.

If none of the NOCs with athletes ranked in the respective group is able to use the quota place, it will go back to the overall Olympic Ranking.

## **DRESSAGE**

Trond Asmyr, FEI Director, Dressage presented the modification for the Dressage Qualification System.

The total number of athletes 60 (+11 reserve horses)

The **Team Qualification – Dressage** would include 11 Teams (directly qualify – no change), Minimum 3, maximum 4 athletes and horses per team, also composite teams (from 3 in 2012).

BRA as Host nation is allocated an automatic team place and if not used, the place will be allocated to the best placed team from Group D or E from the Pan American Games, not already qualified.

1 team place from Group D & E from the Pan American Games taking into account the automatic qualification of the host nation and added to the team places from 2014 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games (4 in 2014 from 3 in 2012).

3 best ranked teams from 2015 European Championships (no change) and the 1 best ranked team place from group F or G from 2014 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games would be qualified.

1 best ranked team from group F or G or C (only Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) from FEI approved special qualification event

**Individual Qualification – Dressage**, no change to the qualification of Individuals from the Rankings.

Should a nation qualified from one of the 7 dedicated Individual group places is unable to use the allocated quota place, it will be re-allocated to the NOC of the next placed athlete within the group.

If none of the NOCs with athletes ranked in the respective group is able to use the quota place, it will go back to the overall Olympic Ranking.

## **8. London Paralympic Games - Evaluation**

Ingmar De Vos, FEI Secretary General presented a short evaluation.

The London Paralympics were very successful and had a record number of sold tickets. Para Dressage had gone back to where it started with amazing attention from both media and spectators.

The existing rules and qualification system works well, however issues have been raised and will need to be addressed. The sport is developing at a fast rate which makes some changes necessary.

### **Timeframe Rio**

Further discussions after the FEI Sports Forum will continue and a final proposal that needs to be sent to IPC Governing Body will be discussed at a session during the FEI General Assembly in November 2013.

## **9. Paralympic Games Qualification System Proposal**

Trond Asmyr, FEI Director, Para-Equestrian Dressage presented the Para-Equestrian Dressage Qualification System.

### **Change in Format:**

The Freestyle will be opened to the highest ranked third of participants in Individual Championship test with a minimum of 7 per Grade

### **Teams:**

For teams the below points require further discussion and fine tuning

- Certificate of Capability: change to horse/athlete combination
- Adjustments to Paralympic ranking lists to horse/athlete combination



- Minimum 3, maximum 4 athletes and horses (to apply also for composite teams)
- Maximum 2 athletes per grade, minimum 1 in grade III or IV
- Maximum 2 athletes per grade, minimum 1 in grade III or IV

**General:**

A maximum of 4 athletes and horses from any country (from 5 for 4 countries in 2012).

**10. Conclusion**

Ingmar De Vos thanked everybody for their contribution to the debate.

He understood there was a consensus concerning the harmonization of the composition of teams in the three disciplines and the quota shift. Consequently this will be submitted to the IOC following the discussions at this FEI Sports Forum.

The FEI timeline for discussions on the general and Discipline specific qualification system will continue after this Sports Forum taking on board all comments, concerns, recommendations and will be further discussed at a special session during the General Assembly in November 2013 where the proposals for the IOC/IPC would be finalised. Stakeholders were urged to continue the debate on the dedicated Online Platform.

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**Olympic & Paralympic Games Qualification  
Q&A**

**First QUESTION & ANSWER session:**

**Sami Alduhami KSA:** 1. Wish that equestrian facilities at OG would stay/be permanent; it would help to develop the sport. 2. Quota: Equestrian sport is growing so the quota should be increased.

**Ingmar de Vos:** A choice needed to be made; Greenwich was a unique opportunity to showcase the Sport. Temporary location was the only way to be close to the Olympic Movement. Rio will host a permanent venue (previous 2007 Pan Am venue, will be transformed into Olympic Venue). A balance needs to be found, everybody remembers Athens.

**Christophe Dubi:** Each international federation asking to increase the number of Events and increase the number of Athletes. The essence of each IF is to help the growth of the sport. The concern of the Olympic Games is physical space: An Olympic village is similar to a new city of 20'000 (Athletes and their Officials) that needs to be built. There cannot be a



change in the quota. There is also a political issue; if the quota is increased for one sport, all the other sports will request the same treatment. Secondly, adding 20 more riders or 100 more athletes in athletics: the question is what is the added value for the Olympic Games? At the OG the best of the best are already representing the sport therefore the value and representation of the sport remains essentially unchanged.

**RSA Jenny Neill:** From a Legal perspective, must the nationality of horse and athlete must be the same nationality as the nation they represent.

**Mikael Rentsch:** this is the reason the FEI proposed that a change of sport nationality during the qualification period would result in a withdrawal from the OG Ranking.

**President of RDRC, Kyra Kyrklund FIN:** Could you clarify how the reserve Horse and or athlete (combination) would be applied?

**Catrin Norinder:** further discussions and review will be made with the IOC, from the experience the reserve system needs to be clarified. This includes grooms and owners for reserve horses and the overall substitution procedure.

**Bo Helander SWE NF:** the universality and quality/performance balance should be looked at as a whole i.e.: equestrian sport rather than the specific disciplines within this sport.

**Christophe Dubi:** The Olympic Programme quota criteria is not related only to universality, it is one of the established 74 criteria. There is no right or wrong. We leave this up to the IF to decide whether it better suits their purpose to view this as a common sport or if it benefits the sport to direct more attention on the individual disciplines a sport contains.

**Andrew Finding, European Equestrian NF:** within the EU NF survey, the proposed quota adjustment gets a strong support. The GBR NF shows some discomfort with the decrease of 5 athletes to 4 in Eventing, even if the need for harmonisation throughout the sport and disciplines is understood.

**Sonke Lauterbach, GER NF:** the 4<sup>th</sup> Athlete in the Dressage team is welcomed. However concerns are expressed with Eventing decreasing from 5 athletes to 4. Dressage had the opportunity to have a fourth combination in the past Olympics, as individual – why should the 4<sup>th</sup> rider be included in the team? the alignment and the transparency principle for public is understood, however does the public really understand about how many Athletes are included in the team? –they need to understand is the sport in general.

**Ingmar de Vos:** FEI proposes that the team numbers be consistent. There is a partial solution with the reserve combination that can be brought to the games but it is not ideal.

**Tom Gordin NF FIN:** It is difficult to understand the drop score is kept and suggest to drop the drop-score

**Ingmar de Vos:** The drop-score is seen as an essential and traditional part of the sport. The main reason is that the equestrian sport has the unique value of having two athletes competing together (horse and rider). Many factors could influence the possibility of a combination to compete and things could go wrong. Losing the chance of obtaining a team result is felt as too hard a sanction and could result in teams actually not obtaining a final score.

The drop score also applies in many other Events, such as championships and games, it would then have to be considered changing also the use of a drop score in these types of events. However, any practical solutions or suggestions are welcomed.

**Nianxi Li CHN Equestrian Association:** The qualification system for developing countries should be based on a fairer concept. There are difficulties with the international movements of horses and the universality aspect would benefit if this was facilitated. Finally more individual quota should be distributed to more nations as part of universality principle.

**Ingmar de Vos:** The grouping system is a difficult exercise; there is a need to monitor the development of the Sport in all country/region and relate this to movement of horses taking into account related quarantine issues. However there will be no changes to the grouping system at this stage. Qualification system can be discussed later in the session.

**Pablo Mayorga, PAEC:** Very happy with the efforts, however PAEC would prefer to maintain the Qualification System which applied in London. The universality and performance can be improved. The Olympic Games and World Championships are different, but both aim to have the best performance.

PAEC is not happy with the proposed qualification system, as the Sport is growing in their Region and feels not enough opportunities are created/given to developing regions.

**Ingmar de Vos:** The universality is covered in the proposal, although there is a quota shift, the same number of Nations is maintained. Regretfully there will be no quota increase. We wish to maintain the same qualification possibilities for all NFs.

**Second Question & Answer session, after the presentation of the three Qualification Systems:**

**Marek Zaleski POL NF:** 1. There is concern as Central Europe is grouped with a big part of Asia (Central) but get only one team place. For the London Olympic Games, there was a special arrangement allowing Group C and G (for Jumping) get two places at a final competition. Taking into account the Universality principle and the size of groups, Group C is the largest and the Sport is growing. We would request to change to 2 slots for Group C, and one for group G. If not possible, then we keep the final competition so group C and G share an additional slot.

2. What is the situation with the individual qualifications, if two or three athletes qualify from the same nation? Can they be considered as a team?

**John Madden, Chair Jumping:** there is one dedicated Individual spot for each group, which helps to satisfy the universality – both for teams and individuals. The Olympic ranking will allow the maximum of two of the same nation. The WEG also provides opportunity to any NF to change the spots allocated.

**Ulf Helgstrand DEN:** It would be good to have an overview of what the qualification criteria for the Olympic Games Qualification events are around the world.

**Trond Asmyr:** For Dressage, all competitions are on Grand Prix level – except for the Pan Am Games, where the small tour level with St-George. Even if you get a place through the Pan Am Games, Athletes/Horses still need to have obtained MERs at Grand Prix level.

**Catrin Norinder:** For Eventing, all qualifying events are on 3\* level, except Pan Am Games which is at 2\* level. The balance between level and number of nations competition at the Pan Am Games is the deciding factor as the Pan Am Games Eventing competitions gathers 11 to 13 competing nations at 2\* star level. If organised currently on the 3\* level only 2 or 3 countries would participate. NOC funding is available for the Pan Am Games whilst none is available for a selected 3 star event in the Americas. The intention is to continue to develop the standard of Eventing in South America and increase the level at the Pan Ams, and FEI is working with PAEC on that.

**John Roche:** All qualifying competitions for the Olympic Games are at Championship level – including the special qualifiers for Group C and G.

**Wojtcek Markowski POL:** For Dressage 1. Proposal on quota: please consider for the European Championships, three places for Group A & B and one place for group C, considering the number of countries in group C. Second option would be with WEG: to allocate one slot to group C, E and G. 2. Question if the format of dressage be changed if we have four Athletes in the team?

**Trond Asmyr:** It is difficult to find a balance between the groups and the possibility to qualify (2). The actual proposal gives all NFs/ OCs the same number of opportunities to qualify. We are taking your proposal back to the Committee.

The format will not change, the exact numbers however of those involved in each competition (i.e 18 best to Freestyle) will be analysed as the time frame is an issue for IOC to consider.

**Will Connell, GBR:** Looking at the Pan Am Games Technical Manual second **competition team final: are EU CH and Pan AM compatible in terms of standards and** the number of qualifications?

**John Roche:** The specifications for the next Pan Am Games have not been approved yet. The Pan Am Games will be at Championship level.

**Lars Pedersen, DEN:** As BRA already qualified as host nation, for Jumping we suggest to take one place from Pan AM Games, and reallocate it to WEG similar to the other two disciplines.

**John Roche:** This will be reported back to the committee.

**Sarah Noble, CHN Equestrian Association:** In regard to the qualification for individual riders, it is felt that the focus is to get teams into Olympic Games – which causes issues with individual athletes in emerging nations. We propose to have two regional dedicated individual slots for each group. In the past, the growth of the Sport was in group A, D and G, now the sport is emerging in new countries and their individual Athlete would need an incentive to be able to achieve an individual Olympic qualification, as it would maximise diversity. We fully support the Eligibility standards or even higher ones. We also suggest that composite teams are reconsidered, as they take up most of the individual, and possibly have 3 riders and not 4 into composite team.

The qualifying period of the Olympic Ranking should also be reconsidered, i.e. in 2008 ending at end of May, and should be maintained rather than February allowing for both north and southern hemispheres to compete and avoid late addition of events; we would suggest extending it even one month.

Finally we feel that closed events counting for qualification are unfair for some nations/riders (for example events where only one or two nations are participating or 4\* championships limited to certain nations, not allowing for equal opportunity for individuals). All individuals should be able to compete on a fair basis.

**Catrin Norinder:** The allocation of two regional places for each individual group should be discussed with all disciplines. Not sure there are enough places, this should be reviewed further.

With regards to composite team, as the new qualification system is bringing down from 5 to 4 riders, we might see a difference with the new qualifications coming up for 2016Rio. The location of the OGs should also be taken into consideration in terms of travelling and finances.

With regards to qualifications deadlines: this will be discussed, it is agreed that a full year needs to be considered, but it needs to be discussed with IOC and Rio OC 2016.

Closed competitions: in Eventing there is a strong principle that all events are open to all nations to participate, excl. EU CH or Pan Am Games, this is something that is also regulated nationally but can of course be further discussed if necessary.

**Grant Baldock, Equestrian Australia** For Jumping: it is requested that one of the two positions in regional qualifier for group G to be put to the WEG for the best performing NF from the Group, as being proposed by Dressage.

**John Roche:** This will be reported back to the committee.

**Jim Wolf, USA:** We need to consider the location of next 2020 Olympic Games and as we are planning for Games in 2016 in Rio we need to consider representation from Americas groups D and E; London was highly successful. We are trying to balance universality and performance. Compromises need to be made. About the Pan Am games, specifically for Eventing and Dressage, going from two to one team selected from the Pan-Am Games and shifting the second team to WEG is a great opportunity. This would be a good compromise and ensures a good representation of the regions concerned. We fully support this compromise.

**Sami Alduhami, KSA:** For Jumping we are facing three points: 1. With the qualifications in our region, taking into account the WEG as team representation, we should make sure that one country represents each region; we should therefore take the 16 teams from WEG. 2. We should see the number of riders competing at OG that represent the actual number of athletes riding every day. 3. The number of medals should be increased also, the format could be rethought.

**John Roche:** There is an equal opportunity for all nations to compete and qualify their teams. To put everything in one basket might not be ideal. The committee will have a look at your proposal.

**Wendy Christoff, CAN:** Dressage: We have requested to have the top placed team from the Americas at WEG to go directly to Rio; secondly with the new format, moving the Pan Am Games towards GP, is Dressage prepared to do the same as Eventing?

**Trond Asmyr:** The changes to increase the level of Pan AM is not specifically linked to Rio, it is a long term plan to raise the level and motivate the region, and bring fairness.

With regards to the first question - adding an additional place in WEG: if we look at the number/results we have so far, there are 3 nations that have 3 or more riders at GP level or above. A slot from WEG would automatically all three nations, and there would be no competition among them to go to the Olympics. We will however report your question back to our Committee.

**Frank Spadinger, AUT:** Jumping: Questions the quota places in relation to Olympic Groups. We have 3 quota places at PAN AM (11 participating nations out of 22) and 3 quota places at the EU CH (18 participating nations out of 22). We ask the Jumping Committee to review the quota places of actual number of participating countries in these qualifiers.

**John Roche:** This will be reported back to the committee

**Constanza Jaramillo , COL,** dressage rider shared her London experience, explaining that her region/country invested more time, effort and finances than ever before to achieve the required level to participate. The region is motivated by the proposed qualifications as it is now felt that there is a chance for the region to participate.

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**Jenny Neill, RSA:** Would like to request if a team doesn't take its spot earned through qualifiers to make sure that the spot is kept within the same group and is not "reallocated" through the Olympic ranking list. Only if no athletes in that group fulfils the criteria should we go back to the list. 2. Question for Jumping: qualifier for group F: to get a team spot you need to qualify at WEG **and** the regional qualifier. This is seen as quite unfair as there is only one qualifying spot for Group F and possibly too high a demand for developing nations.

**John Roche:** This procedure has been the same for quite some time, a combined result at WEG and special event for Group F. The initial intention was to promote the organisation of CH in that region, which is also in line with IOC policy to develop Sport worldwide.

**Jim Ellis, NZL:** We need some harmonisation of the wording between the 3 disciplines as for the allocation of places in team/individual when they are filled up. Do the slots that are available through the Olympic Rankings exclude NFs already qualified with a team?

**Catrin Norinder:** This is a proposal, but yes the wording will be harmonised. It is confirmed that when a team is qualified, it excludes any other participants from the individual Olympic ranking list from that nation.