

## 2018 FEI WORLD DRESSAGE CHALLENGE

After its second year of transition following the change of format introduced in 2016, the FEI WORLD DRESSAGE CHALLENGE will be celebrating its 38<sup>th</sup> edition in 2018.

This new format which is more oriented towards performance and competition, now using existing FEI tests instead of tests drawn up especially for the FEI World Dressage Challenge, athletes are a step closer to the International scene and for many of them this is a trial run before entering their first official CDI.

New National Federations have shown interest in taking part in the series since the changes were brought and see a real opportunity to test the waters for their young Athletes. With one or two FEI judges on the panel and the use of FEI tests, such Athletes can build up their confidence and work on their weaknesses in view of taking part in the next official level of competition.

A total of 40 competitions were organized worldwide in 2017 which is a very positive outcome considering NFs are still transitioning into the new format. More NFs were meant to take part but had to cancel their event in most cases due to weather conditions. 2018 promises to be very successful as the WDC is being used for the first time as a qualifying competition to obtain a Certificate of Capability in view of the Central American and Caribbean Games taking place in Barranquilla (COL) on 20 July – 3 August 2018.

In terms of sport development, the FEI WDC is more than ever aiming to grow the discipline from the ground up, providing opportunities for National Officials to gain experience by officiating alongside experience FEI Judges. As a result, NFs should over the years have a pool of qualified Officials at their disposal to organise more National competitions and consequently more and better opportunities for Athletes to compete and perform.

All documents and information related to this competition are available on the FEI website: <http://inside.fei.org/fei/events/fei-world-challenge/dressage/downloads>.