

FEI EVENTING NATIONAL SAFETY OFFICERS SEMINAR

Hartpury (GBR), 23-24 January 2009

RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORT

INTRODUCTION

Eventing National Safety Officers (NSOs) from 21 NFs met in Hartpury (GBR) to exchange experience and ideas, review the FEI statistics produced for 2008 and discuss the development and responsibilities of NSOs in Eventing. The National Safety Officers present, reported on their national Safety Program and issues.

The following items discussed were recommended for approval by the Eventing Committee and FEI Bureau.

REPORT OF SEMINAR DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

The seminar was held in several parts and the summary of discussions has been reported on as follows

1. RECOMMENDATIONS TO EVENTING COMMITTEE
2. PRACTICAL CONCLUSIONS OF MEETING
3. DETAILS OF DISCUSSIONS - BRAINSTORMING SESSIONS ITEMS
4. RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS
5. NSO PRESENTATIONS
6. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
7. LIST OF PRESENTATIONS

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR IMPLEMENTATION TO THE EVENTING COMMITTEE:

NSO Program

1. **NSO function be included in the Rules** – compulsory appointment for all NFs organizing International Eventing events
2. **NSO list of obligations** to include: immediate communication with FEI of any national or International serious accident. Production of annual statistics, according to a common simplified template.
3. **Establish KPI for each Country organizing Eventing:** Key statistics to be compared between national federations and FEI to establish progress of safety (e.g. number of horse falls per 100 riders)
4. **Shared CMP:** Aim to establish common Crisis management plan for all NFs
5. **Dedicated NSO area on FEI website** for NSO communication including relevant information for discussion and reporting.
6. **Yearly NSO seminar** to be organized by FEI, the 3rd week-end in January.

Database / Statistics

7. **FEI Safety Database system:** Importance of a reliable FEI database was stressed, also to be used as model for National data collection.
8. **Horse Falls:** Main mission is to reduce horse falls. Establish an understandable and comparable database of overall *Horse falls per 100 starters*. This is an agreed measure of comparison between International and National events.
9. **Definition of Falls:** Improve definition of severity of falls and severity of injury for reporting and analysis purposes.
10. **Medical Information release:** to be signed off by riders at annual FEI registration – confidential information for better understanding of safety.
11. **Necessity of Medical & Veterinary data collection:** Setting up a Medical and Veterinary template for collecting data and including in overall statistics database.

Safety Program

12. **4-Star level fall review:** Investigation of 4 star level horse falls
13. **Riders Licensing** – discussion to be continued and reviewed for new proposals
14. **FEI Medical card for riders** to be reviewed
15. **“Return to Play”** rule – need to be further developed together with NFs. FEI to facilitate information for NFs on Medical assessments.
16. **FEI Eventing Chief Stewards at events** –responsibility to report to NFs of riders involved in a fall/serious accident, at the latest the day after the event to be reviewed for practical & effective implementation.
17. **Deformable structures:** re-evaluation of penalty/sanction of breaking frangible devises

2. PRACTICAL CONCLUSIONS OF MEETING

- 2.1 NSO Program: **NSO function to be included in the Rules** – compulsory appointment for all NFs organizing International Eventing events. It was agreed by all NSOs and NFs representatives that a rule be included in the Eventing rules stating that: “For all countries organising Eventing events, it is compulsory to appoint a National Safety Officer. The National Safety Officer is responsible for direct communication with the FEI regarding riders and/or horses incurring **serious** accidents in their country on a national and International level”.
- 2.2 **NSO List of obligations** to include: immediate communication with FEI of any national or International serious accident. Production of annual statistics, according to a common simplified template. The following list was proposed:
 - The direct and immediate communication with the FEI of any rider and/or horse serious accident which occurred at National and International events in their country;
 - Direct communication from the FEI to the NSO for the follow up of the accidents;
 - National Statistics report by end of year (semester).

Annual Statistics report to the FEI to contain the following minimum information:

1. Total of competitions
2. Total number of competitions by level (levels to be indicated in heights)
3. Total of starters
4. Total of starters by level
5. Total number of riders' falls and distribution by levels
6. Total number of horse falls and distribution by levels
7. Total of seriously injured riders and distribution by levels
8. Total of seriously injured horses and distribution by levels
9. Total of riders competing in events (number of registrations)
10. Total of horses competing in events (number of registrations)

New Categorisation of falls (to be used in the report):

1. Fall with no consequences (rider checked on site and released)
2. Fall requires check on site
3. Fall requires follow-up
4. Fall with temporary disability (requiring medical treatment, broken bone, etc)
5. Fall with permanent disability or fatality

Contents of Dedicated page on the FEI/Family website for NSOs:

- o Direct links to other NFs pages for rules, sanctions systems, watch lists, return to play rules, rider licensing examples etc
- o FEI Crisis Managements plan as well as NFs Crisis Management plans
- o Direct links to FEI website- Yellow cards, new rules, communications, etc.
- o List of names and contact details of all NSOs
- o Template for Semester Statistics Report
- o Fall Reporting Forms

Discussions for next NSO meeting

- Education models how to teach XC (for trainers, judges, fence judges)

3. DETAILED DISCUSSIONS - BRAINSTORMING SESSIONS ITEMS

3.1	Review of 2008 FEI Safety Program & Copenhagen Forum conclusions	Presented by David O'Connor
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Further to the Safety Forum in Copenhagen in January last year, several positive changes and achievements have been implemented in regard to Safety in Eventing:

1. Creation and development of the NSO program:

This is a new FEI concept, enabling the direct communication and exchange of information with a dedicated Eventing person appointed by the NF. Hopefully, this will allow a more direct, efficient exchange of information regarding safety issues in Eventing.

36 NSO have been appointed to date in all 37 NFs that organise Eventing events with the exception of Argentina. (ARG NF has still not confirmed the name of an NSO)

2. Dangerous riding:

- **Stopping of riders on XC:** the update of rules to empower officials to be more responsible in stopping riders on courses. The feed-back and the results of the use of this rule in the last months have been very good. The Yellow-flag was removed further to the recommendation in Copenhagen.
- **Yellow cards:** the system has been re-defined in the rules since last year, a rider cannot refuse a card and 2 yellow cards for the same infraction within a year leads to suspension
- Other sanctions possibilities are promoted in Judges/TD courses to be used by event officials including: Verbal warnings - 25 penalties – Disqualification according to the degree of severity of dangerous riding.

3. Watch system

Reporting of verbal warnings of Ground Juries to riders now need to be recorded, as all sanctions (yellow cards, 25 penalties, etc) published on the FEI Web-site under Eventing/Officials/Downloads/Yellow cards:

<http://www.fei.org/Disciplines/Eventing/Officials/Pages/Downloads.aspx>

The GBR watch system (incident list) was explained, when a sanction is given it is added to the list (with full explanation of incident) and it gets sent out before events to all officials officiating. All dangerous riding is followed-up immediately through a letter sent by the office and phone call by the National Coach. In addition, any rider going to hospital after a fall is automatically suspended until further notice.

For FEI events, Chief Steward will be in future responsible for informing the FEI as well as the National Federation of the rider having had either a fall, specifying concussion or/and hospitalization reason, or a sanction (to be reviewed if practical).

4. One Fall – elimination rule:

This rule of 1 fall of rider and/or horse on XC related to the jump of the fence was introduced in August for the Olympic Games based on significant medical evidence/information.

5. Entries of Riders and Horses – NF responsibility:

The FEI General Regulations Article 116.3 now states: "NFs are responsible for selecting and entering qualified Horses and Athletes, this includes the fitness and capability of the horses and athletes to participate in the Competition for which they are entered."

6. Medical information:

Medical release form is now being included with riders' annual FEI registration. (i.e. when the riders register for 2009 they must accept to have their medical information released in case of a fall).

Medical cards: The FEI is looking at a web based system but up until now, a definite solution has not been found

7. Safety Officer / database

The budget for a FEI safety Officer has now been approved. This person will serve as coordinator with the Eventing Department for the statistics, analysis of trends, follow-up with course designers, follow-up of XC issues at events.

The reference added since the end of 2008 to establish an understandable and comparable comparison base using the overall *Horse falls per 100 starters*. These will also be determined by breakdown of levels.

8. Definition of a rotational fall

Further to the Copenhagen forum the necessity to define rotational falls and the serious injuries falls was stressed for statistical purposes.

9. Deformable structures:

A decision had been made by the Eventing Committee to promote research on deformable structures. The reason was that new systems must start to be developed to encourage different safety approaches.

10. Intensity of effort on XC

This is an on-going discussion between Course Designers and all involved in the sport.

11. Qualifications:

The "clear" round for all Qualification results has been reviewed for 2009 and the requirement will now only apply to CICs and not CCI in order to prevent riders choosing the long routes to avoid a run out leading to a non qualifying result.

12. Mission statement

A NSO mission statement would be developed to include:

- Coordination of the communication (between the NFs → FEI and FEI → NFs through NSOs).
- Definition of Role and tasks of NSOs and NFs.
- Agreement of NSO to collect national data.

3.2	2008 Safety Statistics Report	Presented by David O'Connor
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The FEI 2008 Statistics were presented based on information available as the new FEI database system was not yet operational (number of events entered not complete).

The sport has grown since 2002, with an increase:

- **Events** of 65 % (from 263 in 2002 to 433 in 2008)
- **Starters at events** of 95 % (from 6'583 to 12'841)

The mission has evolved to reduce not only somersault falls but all horse falls.

The reference added since the end of 2008 to establish an understandable and comparable comparison base using the overall *Horse falls per 100 starters*. This comparison can be used as reference for National events.

At International events there is 1.6 % of horse falls, 0.3 % of somersaults.

Breakdown of fence types by level of events will be added.

The fence type data compared with falls has proven not be instructive or significant.

It was suggested to propose Statistics for University studies to enable different methodologies.

Full presentation available (<http://www.fei.org/Disciplines/Eventing/Pages/Safety.aspx>)

Additional information to be included in the FEI report:

- N° of registered riders (not only starters) to understand number of riders involved on a yearly basis
- Breakdown of horse falls by level of event
- Breakdown of fence types by level of event
- Define where on course the fall occurred (first, second or third part of the course)
- Riders having fallen more than once (time to be defined)
- Relationship with Dressage and Jumping results
- Tracking of the frangible pins (define how should be tracked and entered in system)
- Number of efforts per meter

Comparison of number of horse falls with injury rate of riders and horses is a KPI that needs to be developed.

It was highlighted that a vision statement was needed to be included to define the data required in order to understand the trends and evaluate the consequences of the results.

The success criteria of the Safety statistics worldwide International and national – is the possibility to provide benchmark information. And eventually FEI need to be able to produce a list of number of falls per country /per region which would allow reviews of procedures. Establish comparisons between International and National data to review status of sport per country.

3.3	Deformable / frangible structures	Moderator: David O'Connor
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➤ **Background**

Deformable structures are a minim piece of the overall Eventing/XC puzzle. No suggestion indicates that all fences should be deformable or frangible. Such structures apply to riders already in trouble on a fence, to limit serious consequences to reduce the effects of the fall.

The introduction of the use of frangible structures in 2009 was the outcome of an aggressive position of the Eventing Committee to encourage the use of different technology as to date the only safety device available for International events are safety pins.

Other technology available is deformable structures and frangible structures. The difference can be defined as follows:

- Deformable structure is brush or forms of it (horses can go through or touch without reparation necessary)
- Frangible fences are in some ways either collapsible or breakable (reparable)

Guidelines have been set (published on the FEI website under Info Eventing section) for use deformable structures:

*a. Cross country fences must in essence **be fixed** i.e. not knock down like a show Jump. A deformable structure may move horizontally or vertically or indeed break.*

*b. Materials must have a **consistent** breakability regardless of weather/temperature and not be weakened by previous horses touching the fence 2 or 3 times.*

c. It is also believed that decisions in regard to the use of deformable structures should be of conservative nature.

Other technologies that can be used:

- *new materials (i.e. the Dutch pole) – basis guideline to use is: “should not make fence less safe”*
- *construction (i.e. frangible pin)*
- *design of the fence (i.e. ground lines)*

Safety pin is designed to stop a fall from being rotational and thus reduce the injuries. However it is essential to produce statistics on pins broken without a fall, to understand the evolution of this device.

The **“Dutch breakable pole”** developed by the NED NF and introduced as compulsory at national level has only registered 9 broken poles in 4 years, however no rider or horse fell whilst breaking these broken poles.

The FEI Rules for Eventing do not define the material to be used for the fences. However it was suggested that the definition should be: **“deformable structure should not make the fall worst** (not make fence less safe)

➤ **Discussion:**

Introduction of frangible structures – It was felt that consistence of decision could not be maintained with only approval of TD/Ground jury.

- Should rules define what is acceptable in regard to frangible structures?

1. if fence moves does it make a fall worse?
2. should rail drop downwards
3. should polystyrene (foam) – construction (solidity) grade be defined

It was agreed to support the use of different materials and implement new frangible/deformable fences. Such fences will be marked

➤ **Debate on the elimination if frangible/breakable fence is broken:** the following argumentation was presented by the participants:

- Elimination for having broken a deformable/frangible fence is too severe and should be replaced by penalties, specifically if the horse breaks the pin with hind legs. 10 penalties instead of the elimination was suggested
- If a rider breaks a fence and does not fall, the fence saved him from falling, elimination is justified. However the fence broke therefore the rider did not answer the Course designer's question.
- do riders take more chances if the fence is frangible / breakable? Riders need to learn to respect the fences. If they have broken a fence there's a good chance that they would have had a bad fall.
- Such fences should be discouraged as previous horses could touch a fence and it doesn't break and breaks when the next rider just lightly touches the fence
- Postponement of any decision of sanctions on frangible fences until more information has been collected on the safety pins.
- Priority must be “avoiding horse falls and especially somersaults”
- Necessity to evolve the rider responsibility of them taking care of horses (change of sport culture) – need to improve picture from survival sport to good riding

It was concluded that this discussion represented a very small issue and safety involved a much bigger discussion in general.

3.4	Riders licensing	Clayton Fredericks
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Clayton Fredericks as the ERA representative and Member of the Eventing Committee monitored the discussion on riders licensing system. It was important to establish what is needed and how to implement it. The riders have varied opinions on the question, and feel that the qualification system is enough.

The riders licence first needs to be defined – why is it required and what does it involve? What are the costs? (These need to be limited)

Should it be similar to a horse passport, can it be linked with Medical insurance?

Should records of sanctions (warnings, yellow cards, dangerous riding) & falls be included?

Rider's responsibilities also need to be clarified / defined: (on the horse and on the course), riders at the lower level? Courses for riders could be organised and would help rider understand what they are expected to do. E.g. 1 course, every 2 years.

Medical coverage, would it be possible through the FEI fee to have an insurance coverage? HQ will investigate, if for riders' registered at the FEI, a cost effective system could be studied.

Suggestions and feedback:

- Discussion supported that riders license should be a national issue, and qualification an FEI issue.
- In several countries medical insurance was linked to the rider's national license.
- The point was made that currently riders compete all over the world and FEI or NFs cannot record the incidents of riders effectively.

3.5	Role of NSO	Giuseppe Della Chiesa
	FEI versus NFs responsibility	Chris Bartle

Presentation & Discussion points:

The following principles were agreed for discussion:

- A safety program must consist of small goals that can be realistically achieved
- A Safety program must be followed-up throughout the year and not only at a yearly safety meeting
- Rider's to be tracked at International events and also National Events.
- The minimum level of information to be provided by NFs to FEI to be identified on a yearly basis to start with.
- The value of exchanging data/ information between NFs and FEI was stressed.
- A NSO meeting take place once per year (3rd week-end of January)
- The FEI to maintain a worldwide standard of International competitions (CCIs and CICs) to ensure that riders qualifying in different countries are at the same level
- Must consider not overruling the Eventing sport.

Identification of Minimum national Data to be collected (focus on horse falls, not only somersaults) – see page 3 of this report

Appointment of NSO: It was agreed that all NFs organising Eventing events must have a NSO and that the minimum Statistics data must be provided to the FEI.

Medical Release: The medical release has been included with the FEI registration of riders for 2009; this allows the release of medical information to the FEI. (to be confirmed)

Exchange of information: The exchange of information regarding safety measures, rules, safety programs, incident lists, crisis management plan, etc. must be set up through a protected page on the FEI website.

Communication plan for NSOs: Standard information requested in case of a serious or fatal accident and timeline must be clearly approved by all NFs in order to enable the NSOs to send the requested information within hours of the accident. A template stating the minimum information to be communicated will be set up.

Crisis Management plan should be communicated to the FEI and basic points could be listed and agreed to by all NFs

- The history of riders and horses must be looked at in the serious accidents
- The importance of signing an agreement between the FEI and NFs to allow a NF to divulgate information involving riders/horses non-registered at the FEI
- Important to collect data on horses' injuries
- The release of medical information could be included by NFs on the entry forms at National Events enabling the release of medical information nationally and internationally.

Video of accidents should also be made available if possible. NFs to investigate ownership of media rights in order to own the video, it must be mentioned that it's for institutional use only.

The presentation of the sport to the media must preserve the spirit and separate identity of the sport. Where to strike a balance between the old attitude and what is being promoted to the public, media, IOC, sponsors etc.

3.6	Medical Aspects of Safety	Craig Ferrell
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Full presentation available+ IOC document + symposium

Presentation & Discussion points:

The main points presented by Dr Craig Ferrell, the FEI Medical Officer were as follows:

- Injury prevention
- Injury treatment
- Medical care standards (event organiser issue)
- Fitness for competition
- Concussion

The ways to prevent injuries include:

- Deformable structures (prevention of rotational falls)
- Protective equipment
- Course design
- Rule changes
- Training riders to fall

Fitness for competition of riders and horses is very important including both mental and physical fitness.

- **Mental:** Impaired judgment, dangerous riding, overconfidence, inadequate training and concussion. Concussion can lead to impaired judgement, dangerous riding, and overconfidence.
- **Physical:** injuries (broken finger, clavicle injury, ankle injury, etc), pregnancies.

Pre-participation clearance is common in many sports but not essential for Equestrian Sport.

Post injury clearance / Return to play: must be addressed by the Eventing sport. The mechanism needs to be identified for the Medical clearances by the treating physician (same as for the treating of the injury). Feasibility in International competition context must be examined.

Concussion: sport concussion is a complex pathophysiological process affecting the brain induced by traumatic bio mechanical forces (being hit on the head directly or indirectly – not necessary to hit the ground). It spontaneously resolves (no operation is necessary), it's functional rather than structural, no test can be done to establish a concussion (x-tray, imaging). Symptoms include headache, cognitive symptoms (foggy feeling), emotional symptoms. Physical signs are loss of consciousness, memory troubles, sleeping troubles. Concussion can deteriorate balance. Once recovered completely, the return to activity must be done gradually.

Concussion evaluation: several systems exists (IMPact etc) promoted by the IOC and National Olympic Committees. NF needs to review system that can be used nationally.

The recommended time before going back to sport is 7-10 days for a simple concussion.

GBR NF suspends all riders for 7 days for concussion and 3 weeks if rider was unconscious. Other sports and NFs rules would be interesting to consider.

Injury Data- NF Medical Officer: Access to medical details is essential for prevention purposes. A periodic critical review of the medical information needs to be implemented. NFs need to appoint National Medical Officer to be driven by the NSOs.

Rules: From medical perspective the rider elimination after a fall on XC is basic. It is not a normal situation that Riders falling on XC, continue, often mildly concussed and not remembering the rest of the course, it is generally accepted that if the horses steps out of the Dressage arena he is eliminated, why should this not apply for a rider falling on the XC?

CONCLUSION - recommendations

- establish Post injury clearance / Return to play rules on National level
- Concussion evaluation to be set-up on national basis
- National Medical Officers to be appointed in all NFs organising Eventing events
- Collect injury information for prevention purposes
- Include all relevant information for NSOs dedicated website for consultation

3.7	Veterinary Presentation	Catherine Kohn
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Presentation & Discussion points:

Efforts to track horse injuries are essential – however such study needs to be supported by serious data.

Risk factors for accidents and injuries for horses in Eventing need to be identified. Information must be collected in order to determine the risk factors to design strategies for medication. To date the issue was that not much data was available.

Horse fatalities between 1996 and 2008 were examined (info from USA Eventing Association and USA NF), (difficult to provide full interpretation as data collected is often incomplete).

51 horse fatalities reported. 38 on the XC, 5 after the XC course, 1 during Dressage, 1 during Show Jumping, 2 during warm up, 1 tacked up, 3 unknown.

Observations on horse fatalities to be divided into two categories:

- Injuries horse sustained an identifiable injury while competing. Frequently, these injuries were not immediately life-threatening and in many cases the horse was euthanized at a later date.
- Collapse of horse (unable to continue) on course.

Retrospective data is important in order to establish what must be tracked in the future.

The level of events has been made easier throughout the years, this enabled horses to enter these competitions which are not all up to the level.

In the general vision of the sport to be adapted, should the exhausted horse be rewarded or should the rider adapt his riding in order to assist the horse.

CONCLUSION - recommendations

- Case control study for horses that collapse or are fatally injured during Eventing competitions should be put in place.
- **Age of horses/level of competition/Intensity (jumping efforts)/speed** should be studied for relevance with horse injuries or fatalities.
- Data has to be collected at the beginning of the competition directly at events in order to compare values of horses in trouble with those who finished in condition.
- Endoscopic study needs to be set up in order to evaluate how many horses have blood in their lungs.
- Cardiac problems and pulmonary haemorrhage must be studied as the rate is increasing and there are no real conclusions available today.
- Post mortem must be made compulsory at all international events.
- Veterinary data must be collected at FEI level for International events to be able to progress any studies and statistics.
- Report of Veterinary Delegates to be updated for collecting relevant data for follow-up.

3.8	Education: Officials Training (riders, coaches)	Andrew Griffiths
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The FEI education programs were presented, they have been developed to encourage world-wide development of experience for officials (exchanges, shadow judges, mentoring, etc), a 5 years budget has been granted for this program.

The program will be launched on 1st March 2009. It's an ambitious project and National Federations are encouraged to participate as much as possible. Information will be posted on the FEI web-site and NFs will be directly informed.

NSOs will be involved to help identify potential candidates for the program.

3.9	Presentation FEI Safety DVD for Officials Education only
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The FEI DVD prepared for the Education of Officials on examples of dangerous riding, tired horses, was presented. It was generally felt that this was an educational video only that needs much support in the presentation, as the cases presented were a very small part of the sport.

4. RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

4.1	Kentucky University Research	
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David O'Connor presented the different projects of the Kentucky University:

- Prototype of polystyrene logs
- Prototype of hinge gate (for ditch type of fences)
- Strap and snap design
- Civil engineering testing approach for field testing of constructed jumps or prototypes of new designs
- Computer analysis to understand and develop breakaway designs

Full presentation available as separate document.

4.2	Presentation of GBR Safety Research (Bristol University, supported by Goodyear)	Tim Deans & Martin Herbert
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Full presentation available as separate document.

5. NSO PRESENTATIONS

National Safety Officers provided different reports enlarging the plan and actions in the National Eventing Safety Program further to the recommendations of the 2008 Copenhagen Forum, new ideas and practical actions, proposal for the future. Three NFs (GBR, SUI and USA) presented Eventing statistic information on falls in the past year.

Australia NF PRESENTATION: Mr Bob Powles, NSO:

A National operating program is being developed with the NF and cooperation between the states in Australia and the event organisers. A plan to set up the collection of data in order to establish National statistics has been made for 2009. Reference was made to the excellent Australian study on injuries of horses and riders on a 5 year period. (available on FEI Web-site under Eventing – safety)

The National Federation is considering implementing the 1 fall on XC= elimination and elimination if frangible device is broken.

Austria NF PRESENTATION – Dr P. Panzenböck, NSO (*Full presentation available as separate document*)

The importance of improving safety equipment for the rider as a priority in Eventing was stressed. A new system was presented for body protector based on new technology and

material. This new research was based on the crush effect of a horse on the rider up to a force of 8 tonnes on the chest.

Czech NF : Bohumil Rejnek (NSO representative)

Reference was made to the two serious accidents which occurred last year at the Strzegom event in Poland. The involvement of both the POL and the CZE Safety Officers to produce information and follow-up on a Polish internal inquiry and the health status of the injured riders demonstrated the NSO system as the way forward.

Denmark NF PRESENTATION – Mrs Randi Virkelyst, NSO

The Danish Federation was working on the enhancement of safety in Eventing through education. During the past year a certification system for Cross country trainers was put in place, and new standards for training were being developed.

Efforts are being made to implement a statistical database to record falls, and implementing a rider's license test.

Rules have been introduced in regard:

- To bits permitted in competition - hard bits in low-level classes are not allowed
- Qualifications have been updated, to ensure that riders are more experienced as they move up the promotion system.
- Falls have been related to qualification: horse falling twice within a year must re-qualify for the level in which the horse fell. Rider falling twice within a year and a medical treatment is required must also re-qualify at the level.

Seminars for national Course Designers have been introduced this year at national level directed by an International Course Designer.

Emergency Plan has been set up (Crisis management plan) for Event organisers: who should do what, when, and what to say and not to say.

NF has acquired radios for fence judges to facilitate communication and allow each fence to be equipped with a radio.

France NF PRESENTATION – Laurent Bousquet (*video available as separate document*)

Laurent Bousquet presented a video in which he tested a new training system. A mechanic horse mounted on a rail simulates a rotational fall. It was felt that it was a very good system which could be developed further. It would help riders to acquire the reflex of falling using the tuck and roll technique in the eventuality of a rotational fall.

Germany NF PRESENTATION- Frederich Otto-Erley NSO (*full presentation available as separate document*)

The GER NF program had concentrated in the past year on developing training program for riders - reflex training (tuck and roll, reflex); in addition a DVD will be developed this year. It was felt that it was important to work together and learn from other sports such as martial arts and vaulting, etc. In 2009, the GER NF will test/evaluate the fitness of riders, including tuck and roll (horse inspection for riders).

A research group (Prof. Norbert Meenen and Dr. Manfred Giensch Hamburg – Eppendorf University) started a medical research study on accident consequences in Equestrian sport and support for the development of suitable protectors.

Bending flags for XC fences have been recommended since 2008 for national competitions for obstacles below 3 meters width.

Safety materials and accessories are being tested regularly (by leading Course Designer Rudiger Schwarz).

Since 2001 a Safety official is appointed for each national competition (as a TD for International events).

Qualifications and promotion: a system of warning has been implemented to inform the NF in case of dangerous riding.

Safety details from the rules of other NFs were carefully studied and evaluated.

Rules have been introduced, for example:

- if Show Jumping is organised before XC and rider has 16 penalties in SJ the rider cannot take start in the XC.
- 1st fall on XC= elimination in the national rules for 2009.

It is felt that dangerous riding penalties are not being used enough; and education of officials will be improved on this issue.

The NF sends out a questionnaire to all riders involved in horse fall or a serious fall, at the end of the year:

- Type of fence - Dress & saddlery - Training- Situations on the course- Tuck and roll.

The answers from riders have been very interesting and have allowed riders to reflect on these issues, as well as providing the riders with follow-up & support.

Great Britain NF Report, Jonathan Clissold NSO *(full presentation available as separate document)*

The statistics collected include National and International events taking place in the UK over a year counted from 1 July to 30 June.

Any rider hospitalized will be followed by the GBR NF and the database is updated with the final medical information.

The 2009 data collected would record Safety pins broken with fall of horse/rider; it was felt that this would enable a better understanding of implementation of any penalties.

The statistics for 4 star events were looked at. It was identified that the figures of 1 fall every 15 riders (Badminton and Burghley) compare to the figures in the USA (Lexington). It was established that the fences should be tracked and the issue must be addressed. Coaches/ trainers and Course Designers should review this issue.

Netherlands NF PRESENTATION – Mr Teun Platenkamp NSO *Full presentation available in separate document*

NED NF has focused on the safety of horse and rider as top priority. Most work has been made to re-enforce rules.

- For 2009, dressage and jumping results count towards promotion points
- One rider fall = elimination
- A new level (under the current novice) has been set up to help the new riders familiarize with the sport.

- Judging on style (safe riding) for all novice competitions. Low score means no promotion points.
- Frangible / breakable fence constructions allowed at International Events and National (on national level since 2001).
- Video taping of fences with breakable poles (national competitions in 2008).
- TD compulsory for all national competitions
- Emphasize on "situational awareness" in order to make the sport safer. It was suggested that checklists to support immediate decision rather than go back to rules could be set up to help people during an event.
- Development of a "incident Management system" based on the FEI/NF system – as a check list for all OCs.

New Zealand NF PRESENTATION– David Moynahan NSO

In New Zealand, 42 Events were run throughout 2008. 150 levels (80 cm to 120 cm), no information regarding the falls has yet been collected. It is the intention to develop the use of the FEI fall form in the future.

Much focus has been on reviewing safety issues on course design. Blag flag option have also been considered.

Faults have been collected by fence number, and fence analysis reviewed. The education of officials is open to everybody without restriction, all new information is presented. National listed officials must attend such seminars regularly.

Crisis management: at events from pony club through to International level, a system has been developed to ensure that all involved understand and have direct numbers to police, medical response, GPS location for the ambulance and helicopter and control of the press. Emphasize is put on urgent Press communication, so a press release comes out before a general story is in the press.

Russia NF PRESENTATION - Alexey Rozanov NSO

The FEI 4 year development program which has taken place in the Eastern Countries has been very beneficial program for the development of Eventing in Russia.

The lack of qualified Eventing Judges is a problem; the NF tries to combine FEI seminars with the national training camps.

Obviously the main problem in Russia is the climate and the short outdoor competition season, first Eventing competitions can only take place in May.

Slovak NF PRESENTATION - Rastislav Bartos NSO

The importance of the training of riders and horses was emphasized. A recent training session were organised in Slovakia with a Dressage trainer as well as a XC trainer for 2 days, and riders had learned a lot to help improve their riding at home.

A training plan had also been prepared for all riders who so wished.

Sweden NF PRESENTATION– Christina Klingspor & Christian Persson NSO, Full presentation available in separate document

The SWE NF presented its riders licensing system. Riders for all disciplines need to have Green cards which are obtained when the rider has attended an education course (including competition rules, how to behave at events). To start National Eventing competitions, an additional Eventing sticker on this green card is necessary which is obtained by doing a course given by educated trainers and includes Eventing rules, training and riding a XC course.

Approximately 1000 riders are registered for Eventing and 3000 starters per year.

For each rider competing in Eventing, a rider book is compulsory. This book includes qualifying results, fall reports, warnings. All falls are documented in the book and signed by the Judge.

A strict qualification system has been introduced – for 2008 riders also need results in Show jumping before beginning the Eventing season. If Jumping is organised before XC, and riders has more than 12 fence penalties, the rider cannot start XC.

Before a rider takes the start of a 1 star competition, he must be assessed by a licensed trainer. Regular training clinics are organised for riders.

Safety on XC: The use of breakable flag poles at fences less than 3 meters wide is compulsory.

All riders having a fall during competition must be examined by an authorized Doctor.

Recommendation to have helmets covered in a "slippery material" (satin)

Switzerland NF PRESENTATION – Hans Klemm NSO

The statistics for Switzerland were presented (*Statistics available in separate document*).

The SUI NF had developed a simplified data collection for national statistics based on the FEI structure. The 1st results have been for 2008, which provides for a total of 25 competitions, a total of 27 falls. No serious injury falls were reported.

All Cross Country courses in Switzerland are checked by the NSO and a training seminar for fence judges will be set up in 2009.

USA NF REPORT – David O'Connor

Total Number of Starters in national & International events in US: 42'617

Total Number of falls: 583 (65 horse falls); % horse falls/total starters: 0.16

Rotational falls have also been registered at novice (90 cm) level.

USA NF have introduced educational programs and qualification requirements based on the number of horse falls (a rider with 2 falls within a year – the rider will need to re-qualify for that level).

Safety measures were taken after Copenhagen:

- 1 fall on Cross Country = elimination had been implemented for National events
- Qualifications were changed in order to have clear rounds for 3 of the 4 qualifying results
- Horse eliminated twice for non technical reasons within 6 months loses qualification at that level
- Horse falling twice within 6 months loses qualification at that level
- Rider with more than one fall with the same horse within a year will cause the horse to lose his qualification. Having lost his qualification a horse may be re-qualified by

achieving two qualifying results at the next lower level within a 6 months period of time following the loss of qualification.

- Dangerous riding follows the FEI procedures
- The NF is in the process of introducing Instructor certification.

5. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

National Safety Officers (NSOs) & Representatives of NFs

1. Australia NF	NSO	Mr Bob Powles
2. Austria NF	NSO	Dr Peter Panzeböck
3. Canada NF	NF	Mrs Jo Young
4. Czech NF	NSO	Mr Bohumil Rejnek
5. Denmark NF	NF NSO	Ms Adrienne Hofer – Chairman DEN NF Eventing Com. Ms Randi Virkelyst
6. Finland NF	NF	<i>Jutta Koivula (not present)</i>
7. France	NF	
6. Germany NF	NSO	Mr Friedrich Otto-Erley
7. Great Britain NF	NSO	Mr Jonathan Clissold
8. Ireland NF	NSO	Mr Charles Maudlin
9. Italy NF	NSO	Mr Giacomo Della Chiesa
Mexico NF	NSO	<i>Agustin Escalante (not present)</i>
10. Netherlands NF	NSO	Mr Teun J. Platenkamp
11. New Zealand NF	NSO	Mr David Moynahan
12. Norway NF	NSO	Mr Anton Granhus
13. Poland NF	NF	Mr Marcin Konarski
14. Russia NF	NF NSO	Mr Vladimir Tishkin, Trainer RUS Team Alexey Rozanov
15. Slovakia NF	NSO	Mr Mr. Rastislav Bartos
Spanish NF	NSO	<i>Eduardo Cardo (not present)</i>
16. Sweden NF	NSO NF	Mr Christian Persson Mrs Christina Klingspor
17. Switzerland NF	NSO	Mr Hans Klemm

FEI Eventing Safety Sub-Committee

Chairman	David O'Connor – 18. also representing USA NF
Members:	- Laurent Bousquet – 19. BEL National Trainer & represent. FRA NF - Yogi Breisner – GBR National Trainer - Chris Bartle – GER National Trainer - Dr Giuseppe Della Chiesa
FEI Medical Committee FEI	Dr Craig Ferrell, Chairman
Veterinary Com Course	Prof. Catherine Kohn
Designer XCAG	Pierre Michelet (FRA) & Member of Eventing Com
Rider	Clayton Fredericks (AUS) & Member of Eventing Com.

FEI Overall Course Directors – Officials Courses

(parallel meeting)	Andrew Griffiths – & Deputy Chairman Eventing Com. Anne-Mette Binder – & Member Eventing Committee Geoff Sinclair AUS Tony McPherson BEL – 20. also representing NF Roger Haller USA Michael Tucker GBR Martin Plewa GER
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Other

Bristol University	Martin Herbert & Tim Deans
Media	Charlotte White - Horse and Hound Louise Parks

FEI HQ & Eventing Dept

Director Eventing & Olympics	Catrin Norinder
Eventing Dept	Nathalie Desscan
Eventing Depart	Sandra Lecoultre
Ex Dir Sport	David Holmes

6. LIST OF PRESENTATIONS

6	Presentation of Medical Aspects of Safety	Craig Ferrell
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Annex 1	Presentation of Medical Aspects of Safety	Dr Craig Ferrell
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7	Veterinary Presentation	Catherine Kohn
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Annex 2	Veterinary Presentation	Prof Catherine Kohn
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Annex 3	Laurent Bousquet video of training for falling	Laurent Bousquet
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NSO Presentations:

No Annex presentation	AUS NF	Bob Powles
Annex 4	AUT NF Body protector	Peter Panzenböck
No Annex presentation	DEN NF	Randi Virkelyst
Annex 5	GER NF – Main Safety Actions Eventing	Frederich Otto-Erley
Annex 6 (presentation not yet available)	GBR NF 1) Researching into deformable structures supported by Goodyear	Martin Herbert & Tim Deans
Annex 7	2) 2007/2008 Statistics	Jonathan Clissold
Annex 8	NED NF – Safety Presentation	Teun Platenkamp
No Annex presentation	NZL NF	David Moynahan
No Annex presentation	RUS NF	Alexey Rozanov
No Annex presentation	SVK NF	Rastislav Rozanov
Annex 9	SUI NF – SUI Statistics	Hans Klemm
Annex 10	SWE NF – Recommendations integrated into our national rules for 2008	Christina Klingspor Christian Persson
No Annex presentation	USA NF – USA Statistics	David O'Connor