

Session 3 – Monday, 25 April, 12:00 – 13:00

Paris 2024 Olympic Regulations - Eventing

Format: This session will include a presentation of the key topics which were submitted for review as part of the initial online survey and then discussed during the online consultation process for the discipline of Eventing. Participants are invited to open the discussion in the Q&A following the presentation of each topic and the submission of proposals.

Presenters: David O'Connor, Chairman Eventing Committee
Catrin Norinder, FEI Director Olympic and Eventing
Geoff Sinclair, Member Eventing Committee

Panellists: Alex Hua Tin, Eventing Athlete
Andrew Hoy, Eventing Athlete

Paris 2024 Olympic Regulations / EVENTING

Topics for feedback - EVENTING

1. Timelines for entries
2. Ranking Rules
3. Minimum Eligibility Requirements
4. Substitution Process
5. Competition Schedule
6. Timeline between the Eventing Team and Individual Jumping test
7. Any other topics

Feedback provided by

- **Tokyo2020 Eventing Officials**
 - o Nick BURTON (GBR) – President Ground Jury
 - o Christina KLINGSPOR (SWE) – Member Ground Jury
 - o Jane HAMLIN (USA) – Member Ground Jury
 - o Yves ROSSIER (CAN) – Foreign Veterinary Delegate
 - o Alec LOCHORE (GBR) - Tokyo2020 Eventing Manager
- **MOUs Stakeholders**

- EEF

- **Athletes having participated in Tokyo2020 Eventing**

- Susanna BORDONE (ITA)
- Nicolas WETTSTEIN (ECU)
- Alex HUA TIAN (CHN)

- **NFs having participated in Tokyo2020 Equestrian**

- Venancio GARCIA-OVES (ESP)
- Evelyne NIKLAUS (SUI)
- Ad WAGEMAKERS (NED)
- Alice SCHWAB (AUT)
- Jenalynn ANCLIFF (GBR)
- Wiveka LUNDH (SWE)
- Wendy LAEREMENS (BEL)
- Avalon EVERETT (IRL)
- Michel ASSERAY (FRA)
- Will CONNELL (USA)
- Kostas KARAKASILIS (GRE)
- Soenke LAUTERBACH (GER)
- Francesco GIRARDI (ITA)
- Kaja KOCZUROWSKA WAWRZKIEWICZ (POL)

1. Timelines for entries

Feedback received online by the deadline of 15 February 2022

Proposals for reviewing the Tokyo2020 Olympic Regs for Paris2024:

- **STAKEHOLDERS**

EEF – As close as possible to the latest time that works for OC, IOC and FEI to allow maximum flexibility for NFs/teams.

- **NFs**

NED – 5 weeks before competition

GBR – Ability to submit DE within one month of the Games (and ideally as late as possible) is important given the challenges of preparing both athletes and horses for peak performance.

GER – As close as possible to the event. Under no circumstances longer deadlines than in the past.

IRL, GRE, ITA – As close as possible to the latest time that works for the OC, IOC and FEI to allow maximum flexibility for the NFs/teams but recognise that there are specific challenges around OG

BEL, FRA – As close to the event as possible.

POL – As late as possible with the possibility of late replacements

Support of maintaining Tokyo2020 rules for Paris2024:

- **OFFICIALS**

Christina KLINGSPOR (MGJ), Alec LOCHORE (Tokyo 2020)

- **ATHLETES**

Susanna BORDONE, Nicolas WETTSTEIN, Alex HUA TIAN

- **NFs**

ESP – Keep as currently established

AUT – Keep the same as for Tokyo

SUI, SWE – No known issues

USA - It is what it is

Proposal for discussion at the Sports Forum

Maintain the same deadline principles for Paris 2024 as for Tokyo 2020.

FEI deadlines include

- Period for Athlete to earn points for Olympic Rankings: 1 January 2023 - 31 December 2023 (one full year)
- MER period for Athlete & Horse (Combination) : 1 January 2023 until Nominated entries 2024
- Nominated entries (max 3 times the number allowed to enter the Final entries) mid-June (TBC) 2024
- Final entries - set by Paris2024 : 5 July 2024 TBC

2. Ranking Rules

Feedback received online by the deadline of 15 February 2022

Proposals for reviewing the Tokyo2020 Olympic Regs for Paris2024:

- **NFs**

NED – For individuals only

GBR - There should be more standardization and the number of starters at each ranking event should be taken into consideration to reduce safety issue

SWE - We believe that the FEI should give Equiratings the task of looking into the whole ranking system. Is it really the right horses and riders that qualifies for the Olympics via the rankings? It is important to see that the standard of the 4 * Events are as even as possible. The quality and difficulty level of the qualifying competition needs to be included in the assessment

BEL – For the ranking list, points need to be connected to the number of starters

FRA, GER - For safety reasons, in order to establish the ranking list, the number of starters at events needs to be taken stronger into consideration. If an athlete secured an individual slot for his NF and this athlete is not able to compete at the OG, the second best qualified athlete of the respective Olympic qualifying group should replace him and not the second best Athlete of this NF (such athlete might be of much lower quality)

USA - No feedback received. Has an analysis been received that compares the Olympic Ranking to results in Tokyo - i.e. is the Ranking over ranking athlete/horse combinations that were perhaps not "up to standard" in Tokyo? Were there athlete/horse combinations that had good results at 2021 Autumn 4*-L/5* that missed out on Tokyo because of their Olympic Rankings?

Support of maintaining Tokyo2020 rules for Paris2024:

- **OFFICIALS**

Nick BURTON (PGJ) – Ok

Christina KLINGSPOR (MGJ) – It seems to work ok and seems to be fair but sure riders can have other opinions

Jane HAMLIN (MGJ) – Good

- **STAKEHOLDERS**

EEF - The conclusion of our discussion is that the current situation is the best and fairest solution (i.e. if someone is unable to travel for whatever reason the next athlete from that nation is eligible to step in) provided that the events at which MERs are secured are of sufficient standard.

Ranking points should be awarded proportionate to the number of starters. It is recognised though that some nations e.g. New Zealand and Australia could argue with justification that they may have small fields compared to Europe but the standard of their competitors is high and so this is not a big deal in our minds.

- **ATHLETES**

Susanna BORDONE - Ok

Nicolas WETTSTEIN – Good

Alex HUA TIAN – I thought the ranking rules were fair and clear

- **NFs**

ESP – Keep current

SUI – Ok

AUT – Keep the same as for Tokyo

IRL, ITA - The conclusion of our discussion is that the current situation is the best and fairest solution (i.e. if someone is unable to travel for whatever reason the next athlete from that nation is eligible to step in) provided that the events at which MERs are secured are of sufficient standard.

Ranking points should be awarded proportionate to the number of starters. It is recognised though that some nations e.g. New Zealand and Australia could argue with justification that they may have small fields compared to Europe but the standard of their competitors is high and so this is not a big deal in our minds.

POL – No changes necessary

Proposal for discussion at the Sports Forum

Note: the current FEI Eventing World Athlete ranking point system was updated in 2019 to relate the number of points with the number of starters in the competition.

The FEI Eventing World Athlete ranking rules would apply to the Olympic rankings including the following principles:

- Based on results as Athlete/horse combination
- 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023 (fixed period)
- 4 best results as combination (6 best Athlete results in the Regular rankings)

3. Minimum Eligibility Requirements

Level, deadlines, special qualifying events, etc.

Feedback received online by the deadline of 15 February 2022

Proposals for reviewing the Tokyo2020 Olympic Regs for Paris2024:

- **OFFICIALS**

Nick BURTON (PGJ) – MERs could be higher now

Yves ROSSIER (FVD) – Qualify at CCI-L format (4* or 5*) within last 12 months

Alec LOCHORE (Tokyo 2020) - There needs to be the consideration for tighter MERs which must also be addressed in line with universality i.e. retaining the maximum number of flags. I actually think that the gap between those who can and those who want to, was wider and more obvious in the Jumping than it was in the Eventing.

- **STAKEHOLDERS**

EEF - The EEF feels that the standard of the cross country at Tokyo was very good for that particular competition given the challenges of real estate and climate. The standard of the cross country at the Olympic Games needs to be genuine 4* with technical questions at 4*+ so that the best can show their ability over the direct line yet the less experienced can have long options.

The EEF feels very strongly that any horse/athlete at the Olympic Games must have qualifications from events that are truly of the right level. This means that all events that count as qualifications for Olympic Games must be of the right standard, not just on the cross country but also in the jumping phase.

The EEF feels that the level of the competition where Nations qualify is less important than the quality of the qualifications/MERs that the individual horses/athletes have to then achieve in order to be eligible to compete at the Olympic Games. Two suggestions to ensure that it is the case:

1. Ensure that only suitably qualified and experienced officials are appointed to competitions that count as MER for the Olympics
2. Just have certain events that count as Olympic qualifying competitions

There are pros and cons for each solution but it is essential that the standard of the Olympic Games is not compromised by allowing soft MERs. The EWG is available to discuss this further if wanted.

The MERs themselves:

The EWG feels that currency is important and so support the proposal but would add the following:

Horse & athlete as a combination:

1 x 5* MER within the current year, or 1 x 5* in the year preceding the Olympic Games plus at least one MER at a 4*L or 4*S in the current year

2 x 4* MERs, 1 x S and 1 x L, at least one of which must be in the year of the Olympic Games

The MERs must be at a minimum of 2 different venues

NFs have to be accountable for only sending horse/athletes of the right standard and competence for their own safety and the reputation and image of the sport. This must be emphasised by the FEI to NFs.

Final comment on the standard at events that count for MERs for the Olympic Games and for qualifying competitions must not have long routes all the way around the course that allows soft MERs. This message needs to be promoted to all officials and NFs.

- **ATHLETES**

Alex HUA TIAN - I think that the Olympic MERs' difficulty for eventing (i.e. 55% dressage, clear XC and no more than 16pen SJ) is fair. In my opinion the Olympic MER is the minimum that a horse/rider partnership should have to do to demonstrate that they are safe to compete at that level. As a rider representing a developing nation, I am resistant to the Olympic MER becoming a tool to raise the

quality of the field. It is up to how team and individual quotas are qualified for to determine which nations or riders get to go to the Olympics. I believe time and opportunity will raise the quality across the world. Increasing the difficulty of the MER will simply narrow the field and the future for the sport at Olympic level.

Having said that, I wonder whether 2x 4* MERs is sufficiently safe. With the variety of difficulty between 4* competitions (i.e. Sopot vs Bramham), a rider/horse partnership is easily able to achieve their 2x MERs in 18 months by strategically avoiding the more difficult 4* competitions. Rider/horse partnerships should be tested but not to the detriment of a horse's welfare. I thought that the rest period after each MER attempt worked well. Perhaps 2x CCI4*-S plus a CCI4*-L to achieve an Olympic MER will mean that riders cannot avoid doing at least one 4* at the harder end of the spectrum. I would be against more than 1x Long format (4* or 5*) as this would add unnecessary miles to the horses.

- **NFs**

NED – CCI4-L by the end of June 2024

GBR - The deadline for FEI Certificates of capability should be extended (as per the timeline for entries above). The extended deadline date of 21 June worked well for Tokyo.

For all MER/Qualifying events, the XC tracks and SJ courses globally need to be standardized. Currently an MER can be achieved at a substandard 4* (more akin to a 3*) event which allows athlete and horse combinations to obtain an MER more easily. This results in both an unbalanced qualifying system and safety issues at the Games which then produces a poor spectacle on cross country day viewed by a global audience. NFs should be permitted the possibility of transferring a MER/qualifying competition to another venue in exceptional circumstances. The FEI should also be able to exercise their discretion and offer flexibility for NFs to add competitions to the calendar where MER opportunities have been reduced, in exceptional circumstances, with a fast-track process for such requests.

BEL – Minimum 2 results at 4* level or 1 at 5* level with 1 result during Olympic year

IRL - The EWG feels that the standard of the cross country at Tokyo was very good for that particular competition given the challenges of real estate and climate. The standard of the Cross Country at the Olympic Games needs to be genuine 4* with technical questions at 4*+ so that the best can show their ability over the direct line yet the less experienced can have long options.

The EWG feels very strongly that any horse/athlete at the Olympic Games must have qualifications from events that are truly of the right level. This means that all events that count as qualifications for Olympic Games must be of the right standard, not just on the cross country but also in the jumping phase.

The EWG feels that the level of the competition where Nations qualify is less important than the quality of the qualifications/MERs that the individual horses/athletes have to then achieve in order to be eligible to compete at the Olympic Games.

Two suggestions to ensure that it is the case:

1. Ensure that only suitably qualified and experienced officials are appointed to competitions that count as MER for the Olympics
2. Just have certain events that count as Olympic qualifying competitions

There are pros and cons for each solution but it is essential that the standard of the Olympic Games is not compromised by allowing soft MERs. The EWG is available to discuss this further if wanted.

The MERs themselves:

The EWG feels that currency is important and so support the proposal but would add the following:

Horse & athlete as a combination:

1 x 5* MER within the current year, or 1 x 5* in the year preceding the Olympic Games plus at least one MER at a 4*L or 4*S in the current year

2 x 4* MERs, 1 x S and 1 x L, at least one of which must be in the year of the Olympic Games

The MERs must be at a minimum of 2 different venues

NFs have to be accountable for only sending horse/athletes of the right standard and competence for their own safety and the reputation and image of the sport. This must be emphasised by the FEI to NFs.

Final comment on the standard at events that count for MERs for the Olympic Games and for qualifying competitions must not have long routes all the way around the course that allows soft MERs. This message needs to be promoted to all officials and NFs.

FRA - Based on past examples where it occurred to have 4* events with a technical level closer to 3*, the FEI should reinforce its recommendations to key officials (CD, TD, PGJ) in term of crucial duties in order to ensure that the technical level of XC and SJ is always in line with the rules. Up to now, it happened too much to have 4* shows run closer to 3* technical level than real 4* which has high risk side effects : unbalanced and too easy qualification, combinations not up to the level of the Olympics, danger in XC, bad picture of our sport etc.

Therefore, we suggest the following for the FEI:

- One 5* result during Olympic year
- Or two 4* (minimum results at different venues, one long and one during Olympic year)

The proposal of achieving results at 2 different venues is for us an important one in term of ensuring skills of combinations and so safety at OG. We would also be in favour of achieving those 2 results in 2 shows from different countries which would definitely bring a higher qualitative aspect of MER process.

USA - The challenge appears to be not whether the MER requirement is wrong on paper but whether some 4* Events are truly up to 4* standard. Whist extremely challenging, especially when put alongside giving athletes the opportunity to compete at 4*, this needs to be addressed. The other area that needs analysing is whether the 75s rule for a 4* XC allows an athlete to take too many "long routes" at a 4* that is already perhaps not fully up to 4* standard. Maybe there should be a formulae for linking the max time faults to the fastest clear XC but there are many challenges to this. Maybe some long routes should be defined as not cumulatively counting to an MER - i.e. if you take one long route at Fence 7 or 12 or 16, ok, if you take two or three long routes at those fences - no MER. Again, challenges with enforcement!

The aim must be that a 4* is up to standard and that an athlete cannot "hunt" around the XC avoiding true 4* questions.

The "Confirmation Result" is also an interesting concept and maybe that should be continued but again, fairness of access/opportunity could be challenging. Maybe a sliding scale - so if an athlete has a 5* MER 1 year out from a Games they do not have to do anything beyond the basic but an athlete who has a 3* MER has to do more (again, accept the challenge of access to enough events)

GER, ITA - The standard of the Cross Country at the Olympic Games needs to be genuine 4* with technical questions at 4*+ so that the best can show their ability over the direct line yet the less experienced can have long options.

Any horse/athlete at the Olympic Games must have qualifications from events that are truly of the right level. This means that all events that count as qualifications for Olympic Games must be of the right standard, not just on the Cross Country but also in the jumping phase. We feel that the quality of the qualification/MER that the

individual horse/athlete has to achieve in order to be eligible at the OG is vital. To ensure that this is the case, only suitably qualified and experienced officials must be appointed to competitions that count as MER for the Olympics.

We feel that currency is important and so support the proposal but would add the following:

Horse & athlete as a combination:

- 1 x 5* MER within the current year
- 1 x 5* in the year preceding the Olympic Games plus at least one MER at a 4*L or 4*S in the current year
- 2 x 4* MERs, 1 x S and 1 x L, at least one of which must be in the year of the Olympic Games

The MERs must be at a minimum of 2 different venues.

NFs have to be accountable for only sending horse/athletes of the right standard and competence for their own safety and the reputation and image of the sport. This must be emphasised by the FEI to NFs.

Final comment on the standard at events that count for MERs for the Olympic Games as qualifying competitions must not have too many long routes all the way around the course that allows soft MERs. This message needs to be promoted to all officials and NFs.

POL – Qualification of the same difficulty level in all groups. Competitions at a high level of sport and organisation. The MERs must be at a minimum of 2 different venues

Support of maintaining Tokyo2020 rules for Paris2024:

- **OFFICIALS**

Jane HAMLIN (FEI Eventing) – Good

- **ATHLETES**

Susanna BORDONE - Ok

Nicolas WETTSTEIN – Good

- **NFs**

ESP – Keep current but if the MERs are obtained the year before the OG, there must be a confirming result the year of the competition

SUI – Ok

AUT – Keep the same as for Tokyo

SWE – Good at this moment but need to make sure that the qualification criteria is not too easy

Proposal for discussion at the Sports Forum

Taking into account above comments and the lessons learnt from Tokyo, the following proposal is made to ensure that **all combinations** have **more practise for** at the level before competing at the Olympic Games:

1 CCI4*L (or5*L) **AND** min. 2 CCI4*S to be achieved after 1 January 2023 with the following additional conditions:

- 1 of the MERs to be achieved within the 6 months before the deadline for MERs (nominated entries)
- MERs to be achieved at 2 different events in 2 different countries

4. Substitution Process

Feedback received online by the deadline of 15 February 2022

Proposals for reviewing the Tokyo2020 Olympic Regs for Paris2024:

- **OFFICIALS**

Alec LOCHORE (Tokyo 2020) - Time consuming process inhibited by the very early start to some of the morning sessions. One aspect which could be addressed is the speed of the process once an NOC has made the substitution - there was suggestion that the process needed to start 3 hours prior to the start of competition rather than just before the 2 hour deadline, due to the time the process takes - 2 hours is a good time and the process should be able to be started 121 minutes before competition time and the process meet this timescale. What is also essential and must remain for Paris is that the substitution can take place on venue and not at the Athletes Village as was originally the plan.

Yves ROSSIER (FVD) – Important to review substitutions that happened in Tokyo, this concept (ability to substitute) is important

- **STAKEHOLDERS**

EEF - It is a complicated situation when it comes to explaining to the public/TV/media. However, the EWG feels that substitutions should be allowed with suitable penalties such that any team that makes a substitution cannot win a medal (unless the competition is an unexpected disaster). We see no need to require a veterinary or medical certificate since this situation can be manipulated and is therefore meaningless.

Only one substitution can be permitted regardless of when. If a combination is eliminated on the Cross Country they should be allowed to jump on the last day provided it was for technical reasons and there needs to be a penalty awarded in this situation

If a horse was eliminated on the cross country for a fall it is to be discussed whether they should be allowed to jump the next day on the grounds of horse welfare. The substitute can step in provided it passes the Horse Inspection but there needs to be a penalty if this happens.

3 with 2 to count (i.e. a drop score on the overall result) which simplifies the substitutions issue and feels more like the sport we know before Tokyo - but there are pros and cons which needs a bigger, broader discussion and again is linked to the strategic direction of the sport. The EWG is not completely/unanimously convinced about this but welcomes a detailed discussion on its merits.

- **ATHLETES**

Susanna BORDONE – Very bad format with the possibility of substitution

Nicolas WETTSTEIN – Too complex to understand. I am in favour for 3 riders per Team that all count without any substitution. Only before dressage after first horse inspection the reserve rider can substitute.

- **NFs**

ESP – The substitutions until the end of the Cross Country test seem clear only for medical or veterinary reasons and allow the reserve horse to enter the competition.

A rider eliminated during Cross Country adds 200 points. It is fine and a fair penalty in my opinion. The reserve must enter for the jumping test and without the extra penalty of 20 points. The welfare of the horse must inspire this rule.

If a rider finishes the cross country test and his horse is not presented or does not pass the 2nd HI, the reserve must enter for the jumping test with the extra penalty of 20 points.

If a team has 2 horses eliminated in the Cross Country: the reserve enters without any additional penalty and one of the eliminated horses that passes the 2nd HI satisfies the 3 test without another penalty than the 200 points already attributed for its elimination in the XC

NED – Up to 2 hours before competition

GBR - We would propose that the requirement for medical or veterinary certificates be removed, permitting substitutions to be made for tactical reasons, at the discretion of the NF. The current system is not open and transparent, and it is potentially open to abuse. Substitutions should be allowed for any reason, or not at all, to protect the integrity of competition and ensure a level playing field for all participants. All athletes who have competed for their nation at any stage (whether in the team qualifier or team final) should be awarded a medal if the team finishes on the podium.

SWE - Very important to find a simple way to substitute riders. The current substitution system is not good. We suggest following substitution system:

A Rider/Horse combination can either be substituted before the 1st HI or right after the HI like it can be done in the Nations Cup competitions. With this format the importance of the three day eventing will be kept, and the ultimate test, all riders gets to complete all three disciplines.

IRL – Same comment as EEF

USA - Process for approving substitutions must be on Venue and instantaneous. Some comments around whether there should be a "cut off" with no substitution allowed after XC if a team has had one or more non completions of the XC

GRE - Substitutions should be allowed with suitable penalties such that any team that makes a substitution cannot win a medal (unless the competition is an unexpected disaster). We see no need to require a veterinary or medical certificate since this situation can be manipulated and is therefore meaningless. Only one substitution can be permitted regardless of when

GER - In a format of 3 with 2 to count, which is favoured by us for Eventing, the last pre-competition change is to be made before each rider starts his dressage test; no more change/substitution afterwards.

If 3 out of 3 count, substitution deadlines should be kept as close as possible to the start of the next phase (minimum 1 hour). The current wording under Art. 609.2.3 that the substitution must be "completed" up to 2 hours before the start of the competition does not reflect the time when the Chef d'Equipe informs the show office about the substitution is decisive

ITA - We feel that substitutions should be allowed with suitable penalties such that any team that makes a substitution cannot win a medal (unless the competition is an unexpected disaster). We see no need to require a veterinary or medical certificate since this situation can be manipulated and is therefore meaningless.

Only one substitution can be permitted regardless of when. If a combination is eliminated on the Cross Country they should be allowed to jump on the last day provided it was for technical reasons and there needs to be a penalty awarded in this situation. If a horse was eliminated on the cross country for a fall it is to be discussed whether they should be allowed to jump the next day on the grounds of horse welfare. The substitute can step in provided it passes the Horse Inspection but there needs to be a penalty if this happens.

POL – Needs discussion

Support of maintaining Tokyo2020 rules for Paris2024:

- **OFFICIALS**

Nick BURTON (PGJ) – Worked well

Christina KLINGSPOR (MGJ) – A few chief d'équipes did not know the rules so well. Intention of this substitution is good but we are not used to it

Jane HAMLIN (MGJ) – Process worked well once understood

- **ATHLETES**

Alex HUA TIAN – No issues to report

- **NFs**

AUT – Keep the same as for Tokyo

SUI - In general, the substitution process is fine, even if it is quite complicated via NOC etc. but we understand that this must be like this. The only problem we had was the availability of the people involved in the process onsite (OC/FEI) or maybe it was as well a problem in the system that not everything was submitted immediately.

FRA - We are in favour to keep the medical/vet justification due to multidiscipline context of eventing. We fear that without this an eventing team could tactically plan to compete with a talented Dressage specialized horse on the 1st day and finally achieve a strong team result. This is not part of our vision for eventing sport.

In term of process it has of course to be efficient having in mind OG context with equestrian venue apart from NOCs and Organizing committee offices

Proposal for discussion at the Sports Forum

Note based on the Tokyo2020 Olympic Regulations:

- **Pre-competition Change:** change of an Athlete/Horse combination between Nominated Entries and 2 hours before the start of the 1st competition by NOC/NF without Medical/Vet reason
- **Substitution:** change of an Athlete/Horse combination during the competition with the reserve upon presentation of Medical/Vet certificate

Proposal: Maintain Substitution principle as per the Tokyo Regulations, timings to be reviewed with the IOC

5. Competition schedule

Feedback received online by the deadline of 15 February 2022

Proposals for reviewing the Tokyo2020 Olympic Regs for Paris2024:

- **OFFICIALS**

Yves ROSSIER (FVD) – Keep classic format for team competition: Dressage test on 2 days, Cross Country and Show Jumping. Format for individual Show Jumping should be reviewed.

Alec LOCHORE (Tokyo 2020): Worked well in Tokyo with the 3 sessions of Eventing Dressage. However, there is significant concern, not only from the NOCs but also expressed by the GJ that to judge 65 athletes in a single day is unsatisfactory. The actual test developed was considered a good test both to judge and watch. However, for the GJ the test had a very high level of intensity which to maintain in a fair and consistent manner if there were 65 tests in a single session/day would be at the best extreme and at worst unfair to some athletes.

- **STAKEHOLDERS**

EEF – Feeling that judging 65 in one day for the Dressage test is not a good idea as it will be unfair on both GJ and athletes. More than currently accepted by the FEI

and too long to fit in a day and expect the judges to be able to give all the horses due attention.

The length and time of the Dressage test in Tokyo was good but athletes feel that this test could be smoother to ride.

Following suggestion should be considered as a viable option for the future depending on the strategy for the sport and where the sport might go:

Based on 65

DAY 1 – Dressage test

DAY 2 – Remaining of Dressage with Jumping in the afternoon

DAY 3 – Cross Country for all and team medals decided

DAY 4 – Individual Jumping and individual medals decided

Otherwise supportive of current timetable and happy with the proposed minimum time between the Team and Individual Jumping.

- **NFs**

ESP – We propose 2 days for the Dressage test

NED – As a normal long format competition

GBR, FRA, GRE, GER, ITA – Spread Dressage test over 2 days as there is no requirements to move horses to an alternative Cross Country venue. We would find it acceptable to run 3 sessions over one and a half day, as it was the case in Tokyo. However, we would have great concerns if the Dressage test was to take place over the course of one day, namely for the following reasons:

- Exceeds the maximum number of competitors starting in Dressage tests based on the FEI Rules.

- Long day for the GJ who is expected to maintain the highest standards of judging throughout. A long day brings a higher risk for error.

- If there were to be any delays during the day, the competitors competing towards the end of the day will be doing so in poor natural light, as we understand there will be no floodlights.

- Cross-country course will need to be opened earlier if only one day of dressage is held, potentially prior to the 1st HI, to enable competitors to have enough time to walk the course thoroughly.

- GJ will need to be on site earlier in order for the Cross Country course to be inspected and approved ahead of competition.

- A long day of Dressage rather than 3 short sessions is likely to be unattractive to spectators and the global audience.

- A single day of Dressage will be challenging for the support teams with riders throughout the day. This presents a safety risk for Cross Country day, if athletes and support staff are fatigued from an unnecessarily long day for the Dressage. Less quality time to walk the course together especially the last day before XC when crucial final choices are done.

SWE – Important to receive the schedule as early as possible to know what Dressage test is to be used as early as possible.

New format suggestion:

Run the team competition in the short competition format so the team medals are awarded after the XC test. The top 20 placed riders still jump the last day for the individual medals. In that way, there is no extra day of competing.

DAY 1 – 45 Dressage tests

DAY 2 – 25 Dressage tests with Show Jumping in the afternoon

DAY 3 – XC test and team medals

DAY 4 – Individual SJ test

IRL- Feeling that judging 65 in one day for the Dressage test is not a good idea as it will be unfair on both GJ and athletes. More than currently accepted by the FEI and too long to fit in a day and expect the judges to be able to give all the horses due attention.

The length and time of the Dressage test in Tokyo was good but athletes feel that this test could be smoother to ride.

Following suggestion should be considered as a viable option for the future depending on the strategy for the sport and where the sport might go:

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Otherwise supportive of current timetable and happy with the proposed minimum time between the Team and Individual Jumping.

USA – Dressage test cannot be completed in one day (should this be a consideration). Not fair on the GJ and leaves no wiggle room for weather/XC issues etc.

Ideal when Eventing is on first then a gap then Dressage and Jumping alternated. Timetable was also gruelling for all, especially grooms and vets.

Support of maintaining Tokyo2020 rules for Paris2024:

- **OFFICIALS**

Nick BURTON (PGJ) – Very good worked well

Christina KLINGSPOR (MGJ) – Good

Jane HAMLIN (MGJ) – Schedule was excellent with allowance for heat

- **ATHLETES**

Susanna BORDONE, **Nicolas WETTSTEIN**, **Alex HUA TIAN** – Good and no issues

- **NFs**

SUI – Ok

AUT – Keep the same as for Tokyo

POL – No changes necessary

Proposal for discussion at the Sports Forum

Note: The Eventing 3 day format voted by the FEI Gen Assembly in Nov 2016 as part of the new Olympic Format – as reduction of cost and complexity norm had been integrated in the Paris2024 competition schedule. The total number of competition days at the Versailles venue allocated for Equestrian is 11 days of and no additional day is possible due to the fact that Equestrian is sharing the venue with Modern Pentathlon.

Proposal:

- the length and content of the dressage test, as well as the timetable to be reviewed and as proposed in the Consultation meeting – a trial event for Judges be organised
- Maintenance of the current order of tests and the long format principle for both Team and Individual competition as representing the values of the Eventing sport philosophy.
- 20 combinations to qualify for the Individual Jumping test

6. Timeline between the Eventing Team and Individual Jumping test

Feedback received online by the deadline of 15 February 2022

Proposals for reviewing the Tokyo2020 Olympic Regs for Paris2024:

- **OFFICIALS**

Nick BURTON (PGJ) – Ok, the 2nd round did not produce great pictures at the end of a very good competition. It did not need to be quite so difficult. The winners/medallists made it look easy, of course

Yves ROSSIER (FVD) - Difficult to answer, needs to be studied as having to jump a 2nd round (individual jumping test) seems difficult to understand, uncomfortable for the horses and not optimal for horse welfare.

Could be immediately after team on a shortened course (like a jump off but scored according to penalties and time, table A) or on the next day?

- **ATHLETES**

Nicolas WETTSTEIN – Little bit more time would be good

- **NFs**

SUI – In Tokyo the break between the Team and Individual Jumping test was very short. We understand that this was due to climate conditions. We suggest to have a break of at least 2 hours between the two classes in Paris

NED – 2 hours

GBR - The current time allowed between the two tests is acceptable. We believe that if any further time were allowed between the two jumping tests, the horse's adrenaline levels would be reduced and the standard of jumping in the individual class would not be as high.

We do recommend only 20 combinations proceed from the team test to the individual test for the following reasons:

1) The combinations numbered 21 to 25 are just there to make up the numbers in the individual test, rather than having the potential to medal.

2) Fewer riders provides a shorter, more exciting competition for spectators and the global audience

BEL – 120min break

USA - It was a long time if things had not gone great and probably ok for a nation had athletes truly in the hunt for individual medals! It made for a very long day and possibly some horses were more tired because of the break and jumping at night. For Paris it should return to timings similar to London.

GER - There should be an approximately two hours break between Team and Individual Jumping test

Support of maintaining Tokyo2020 rules for Paris2024:

- **OFFICIALS**

Christina KLINGSPOR (MGJ) - Good, cause of transportation of horses from Sea Forrest to Main arena it gave a good time between Horse Inspection as well Show Jumping

Jane HAMLIN (MGJ) – Time between seemed correct

Alec LOCHORE (Tokyo 2020) - I think 90 minutes is fine - OBS should be consulted, but I think this gives them time to 'go and comeback' to our sport. From the operational perspective anything from 45 mins to 90 mins is adequate

- **STAKEHOLDERS**

EEF – Fine

- **ATHLETES**

Susanna BORDONE (FISE) – Ok

Alex HUA TIAN – Fine

- **NFs**

ESP – Keep current

AUT – Keep the same as for Tokyo

SWE - Ok for the current format, but please see our proposal on a new format where we propose to have the individual Jumping test by itself one day after the Team medals

IRL, ITA, POL – Fine

FRA - The duration between team SJ and individual SJ from Tokyo worked very well in our opinion and should not be increased. The current window allows horses to remain into competition dynamic. Increasing time would make the second effort even stronger which is not suitable. We do support the individual SJ with a group of 25 combinations

Proposal for discussion at the Sports Forum

Proposal based on the above feedback:

- Maximum 90min break between the Team and Individual Jumping test
- Reduce the number of participants to 20 for the Individual Jumping test

Feedback on Any Other Topics

Feedback received online by the deadline of 15 February 2022

Proposals for reviewing the Tokyo2020 Olympic Regs for Paris2024:

- **OFFICIALS**

Christina KLINGSPOR (MGJ) - I must mention uniforms! It is crazy all this, time and money that is spent to equip all involved! Needs to be improved and minimized a bit. If you are interested to know more about my thoughts, mail me.

Also maybe in future have XC last, easier for spectators to understand and more exciting

Jane HAMLIN (MGJ) - The dressage test was quite intense which penalized riders who did not have the education and collection required. It definitely tested the elite of the sport. It was a serious test to judge with movements coming very quickly. To judge it well it would be important not to judge too many tests in one day. I also felt that the individual round of show jumping was perhaps too difficult and designed more as jumper course versus an eventing show jumping course. It did not always present a pleasant picture

Alec LOCHORE (Tokyo 2020) - Omega/Swiss Time - they were not their usual efficient self in Tokyo - there were a number of issues outside of the late substitutions and draw issues. This needs to be reviewed in depth at homologation - hopefully with the new system now up and running this will be clearer.

There needs to be a review of the FEI Operational Requirement document. Equestrian Sport is expensive to host, not just eventing but the whole spectrum and there are aspects which are suggested in this document which are all Gold

Standard. Whilst the OG should obtain a high standard of provision it must also balance that with affordability. Some of these are challenges that the FEI do not have complete control over, however as there is a change in the way things are to be managed/controlled/delivered, then this is a prime opportunity to address this. There should be a working group/forum set up of people who know and understand how events are run and delivered - this to include specific people from outside the FEI. Much time, money and effort would also be saved if a consultant went into the OC years in advanced to carry out work within the OC. One of the real challenges is that the people with the knowledge and understanding arrive on the scene too late and some critical decision have already been made, which if wrong then take time, money and effort to get amended

- **STAKEHOLDERS**

EEF – a. The EEF believes strongly that the sport/experienced nations need to help and support the less experienced and emerging nations to develop the standards of the sport in their countries.

b. Medals: if there are 4 athletes/horses who participate in a team they should all get a medal in the unlikely event of a team getting a medal if they have made a substitution

c. Sports presentation there is still room for improvement particularly in the graphics and the information (or lack of!) that commentators receive. Even though this is an on-going discussion and the challenges are recognised if our sport is to be more easily understood and commentators are able to give accurate and informative information there is a need for improvement. The sport can be too complicated to explain, simple is good. The EEF offers to support any discussion in this area.

d. Voting on eventing matters at FEI GA: the EEF feels strongly that only nations with athletes that are competing in eventing should be able to vote on rules that affect eventing. To vote on a discipline that is not understood by nations who do not have athletes in the particular discipline seems illogical because they will not understand or appreciate the issues in that discipline

e. Welfare: welfare should not be used as a reason for anything, welfare should be a given and automatically accepted as the norm and must be the priority in all decisions.

- **ATHLETES**

Alex HUA TIAN – We really appreciate 2x Horse Owner accreditations per horse guaranteed - this is crucial for the future of the sport. However, I feel it is important for the welfare of the horse that each horse should be guaranteed 1x groom accreditation as well as each nation guaranteed 1x vet accreditation (guaranteed in that these accreditations are not part of the NOC allowance and so therefore cannot be taken away by NOCs who do not understand the sport). As a rider for a developing equestrian nation, the battle for groom and vet accreditation is always very difficult and is entirely dependent on where we happen to be on the cycle of management change

- **NFs**

NED – Back to the old system with 4 riders and one discard score

GBR – Team of 3 riders and one discard score. This will increase the possibility of the best teams going against each other in the final stages of the competition. With three riders in a team and no drop score, the variables (lameness, elimination, substitutions etc.) have more impact on the final outcome in what is already a sport of many variables.

Dressage Test: In principle we favour the shorter dressage test, but we feel it could be more flowing whilst retaining the same technical content

SWE - We strongly want to stress the importance of keeping the sport of Eventing in its true character, also in the Olympic format. The riders that complete the competition must have completed all three disciplines, as this is the original idea of the sport. In Tokyo, a rider could get a final team result without completing the whole competition. It is not supposed to be a dressage, show jumping or a cross competition, it is Eventing

BEL - The draw at the Olympics should be better prepared. With no drop score the team position might be even more important so this needs to be professional

IRL - a. The EWG believes strongly that the sport/experienced nations need to help and support the less experienced and emerging nations to develop the standards of the sport in their countries.

b. Medals: if there are 4 athletes/horses who participate in a team they should all get a medal in the unlikely event of a team getting a medal if they have made a substitution

c. Sports presentation there is still room for improvement particularly in the graphics and the information (or lack of!) that commentators receive. Even though this is an on-going discussion and the challenges are recognised if our sport is to be more easily understood and commentators are able to give accurate and informative information there is a need for improvement. The sport can be too complicated to explain, simple is good. The EWG offers to support any discussion in this area.

d. Voting on eventing matters at FEI GA: the EWG feels strongly that only nations with athletes that are competing in eventing should be able to vote on rules that affect eventing. To vote on a discipline that is not understood by nations who do not have athletes in the particular discipline seems illogical because they will not understand or appreciate the issues in that discipline

e. Welfare: welfare should not be used as a reason for anything, welfare should be a given and automatically accepted as the norm and must be the priority in all decisions.

f. All encouraged to discuss within their NFs and colleagues about where they see the sport heading in the future. This is a separate discussion and not part of the submission to the FEI for Paris 2024

FRA – Dressage test duration based on Tokyo Games is fine. New test at each OG. For the XC, 4*-L with technical aspects of a 5* course and 4* dimensions. SJ same as Tokyo Games. With team of 3 (smaller than team format of 4 that we do support, even for the future) we do support to not have a drop score to award the global team performance. The draw on site should be conducted in a more professional manner

USA - Bring less than 25 horses back for the individual Jumping (second round of Jumping), maybe 15. Do not need to see tired horses jumping with no chance of medalling.

GER - Discard score: proposal to count 2 out of 3. This is a measure to secure the character of the discipline of Eventing and to have the best combinations in the world compete in the Olympics with each of their complete results in all phases to count. If like in Driving, the best two results in each phase would count, tactics might dominate the choice of Athletes/Horses as NFs might tend to select specialists for each phase rather than the overall best 3 Athletes/Horses. Furthermore, this is clearer to the public. Technical specifications of the Olympic Eventing competition:

The Dressage Test should be optimised, smoother to ride - we offer to assist in this process.

XC: 10 minutes course 4*L with technical aspects of a 5* course, 4* dimensions.

Jumping: as it was in Tokyo, the requirements were ideal, it should not be more difficult

Draw: The draw on site should be conducted in a more professional manner.

Presentation of the sport: There is still room for improvement particularly in the graphics and the information (or lack of!) that commentators receive if our sport is to be more easily understood and commentators shall be able to give accurate and informative comments.

Also, better technical TV equipment for teams on XC day in the "team's tent" would be welcomed.

Support of maintaining Tokyo2020 rules for Paris2024:

- **OFFICIALS**

Nick BURTON (PGJ) - Otherwise a great Event, well organised and Covid regulations also managed well.

- **ATHLETES**

Nicolas WETTSTEIN – Good luck defending the new format! I am sure it is the right format. The fact that big nations had a joker during the competition until and with Rio 2016 Olympic Games was just unfair

- **NFs**

AUT – Keep the same as for Tokyo

Proposal for discussion at the Sports Forum

- **Technology:** Omega/Swiss Timing – discussions to improve services i.e. draw, information updates, communication and procedures – to be discussed with IOC
- **Sports Presentation:** improvement of commentator information, TV graphics and information displayed – to be discussed with IOC
- **NOC accreditation quota**, including Horse Owner, grooms, and discipline Veterinarian to be reviewed with IOC
- **Review of Eventing competition format for the future:**
- Improve Dressage test (smoother), level of difficulty
- XC: 10min course with 4*L distance and 5* technical difficulties, 4* fence dimensions