

## Olympic Agenda 2020 – Olympic Formats – Eventing

### British Eventing's feedback on FEI Proposals – GA 2015 Session II Olympic Formats – Eventing

#### Proposals:

#### **A. Three horse/rider combinations per team – plus a reserve.**

The following is felt to be a preferred option: Four competitors from each nation for first two phases (Dressage and Cross Country) with team declarations after second horse inspection– the four competitors would compete in the dressage and cross country. After the Horse Inspection on the morning of day three (Show Jumping) each team would have to declare which three riders would be continuing to compete in the show jumping Individual and Team competition. There would be no reserves.

Rationale of this proposal:

With three in a team the risk is too high of a team not being able to complete if they have eliminations on the cross country.

There are many reasons combinations could get eliminated or have to retire on the cross country including some not related to horse welfare, i.e. broken tack or equipment, and if riders felt something was not quite right on the day they should feel comfortable with being able to pull horses up without the pressure of completion.

The cost is the same as the FEI proposal as there is no reserve horse – so the same number of horses in the stables/accredited etc.

In order to increase universality it is proposed that the nations not directly qualifying as teams are restricted to a maximum of two athletes – this would remove the ability to get a team place through the composite team route; this would then increase the number of nations represented in the individual competition.

#### **B. Removing the drop score.**

The proposal set out above removes the drop score for the final of the team competition. This therefore removes the necessity for a complicated penalty system. One of the key aims of OA 2020 is to make the sport easier to understand - this penalty system would have the opposite effect. In addition it is felt that only the three completing team members should receive a medal.

#### **C. Dressage in one day.**

In agreement with this proposal.

#### **D. Cross country to be organised in one day**

In agreement with this proposal.

## **E. Jumping tests Individual and Team to be in one day.**

In agreement with this proposal and that Team members should be altogether in the arena – there would obviously need to be a specific area where they can continue their warming up; also that the Team competition should be the final competition – followed by the medal presentation. It is suggested that Team members should start in reverse order.

### **Additional proposals/thoughts**

#### **Name:**

British Eventing supports the change of name to Equestrian Triathlon.

Linked into the discussion of the name it is suggested that going forward the FEI should review the nomenclature/terminology for other FEI Eventing competitions. CIC and CCI are not very clear for example – should look at common terminology that better explains and describes what the levels of FEI events are.

#### **Universality:**

It is suggested that in order to enhance universality – to enable teams and in particular individuals from developing nations to compete that the FEI should review the allocation criteria and qualification criteria to enable more nations to compete.

#### **Previously considered options:**

Some of the previously considered options looked at having completely separate efforts for the Team and Individual medal competitions. It is felt that on reflection this would not be cost effective and also when this has been tried at previous Olympic Games (Sydney) it had a negative effect on the quality of competition for the individuals.

Format for other competitions – World and European Championship. It is felt that the same format should be adopted for all other Team Championships including Nations Cups.

#### **Presentation and engagement:**

It was clear from the presentation made by Kit McConnell at the FEI Sports Forum in April 2015 that the issues of presentation and engagement are very important to the IOC in the decision making process for OA2020. It is understood that before the IOC makes a decision on which events are in/out for 2024 they will be evaluating the ‘popularity and consumption’ numbers coming out from Rio – TV/Internet/social media etc. It is therefore vitally important that the presentation of eventing in Rio is as good as it can be in order to ensure that the ‘popularity and consumption’ numbers are good. It is very encouraging to hear that the FEI is actively engaging with OBS in order to achieve this. GBR has very extensive experience of televising eventing both live and recorded and we would be very happy to contribute to discussions with OBS.

It is felt to be vitally important to ensure that throughout all the discussions the concept of trying to make the competition as easy to understand as possible is critical – as this will help enormously with engagement. An example is under the proposals put to the FEI GA a team could be classified in the top 6 when only one or two horses appeared in the final show jumping – which could be difficult to explain to a viewer.