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**Sports Department**

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## Olympic Agenda 2020 and Rules Revision- Eventing

Dear Catrin, Dear Members of the Eventing Committee,

We all respect the massive amount of thought you have been putting into the current proposal for the Eventing Olympic Format (following Eventing Committee Meeting 03/2016) and we appreciate your voluntary work. Still, it is much more than disappointing that the well reasoned application of the vast majority of Eventing nations to keep four riders per team was not followed.

We agree that staying in the Games is the ultimate goal. And this is the point: The proposal does not convince us that this is the right move to stay in. IOC tells us that they do not request the removal of the fourth rider and the drop score. Our main national TV broadcasters ARD/ZDF clearly state that from their point of view as media representatives the drop score is great for sports presentation and not having it would be a wrong move. So, knowing that successful sports presentation is the essential judgement criteria for the IOC, maybe we should listen to them.

As a conclusion we believe that the proposal even puts us on a higher risk of being kicked out of the Games.

In detail the German Equestrian Federation herewith wants to comment on the current proposals as follows:

### SESSION 6: OLYMPIC COMPETITION FORMAT

1. The German NF agrees with the traditional order of tests.
2. The German NF fully agrees to have only one Cross Country test in one day and two rounds of jumping tests to differentiate Team and Individual Classification.
3. The German NF absolutely disagrees with limiting the participation to a maximum of 3 riders per nation with the deletion of the drop score for the team competition. In agreement with the view of the overall majority of the Eventing nations, the German NF absolutely disagrees with this proposal. There must remain four riders per team with the best three results to count. The most important goal is to maintain the Eventing sport in the Olympics in the long term (also after 2020) as a result of an exciting competition with the majority of teams finishing (statistics prove the risk of having no discard score, especially for the teams with riders with lower completion rates). At the same time we need to uphold the level of the competition, address the safety of the sport, allow the best of the best to compete and win the medals and keep the excitement for TV and public even if one team member fails.
4. The German NF agrees with the proposal to organise the dressage in one day.

5. We also agree to organise the Jumping tests in one day.  
However the German NF realises no benefit in reducing the team to three in the final phase except for offering a change. The team competition is the most important and therefore should take place first.

We propose the following alteration to the current format:

- a. Team Final and Individual Qualifier with the following starting order:  
Part 1: Individuals and teams placed 7<sup>th</sup> and below  
Part 2: Teams placed 6<sup>th</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> in the currently used reverse order of merit per team (best rider of best team to jump last) which in our opinion would create the greatest excitement
- b. Individual Final for the best 20 - 25 individuals.

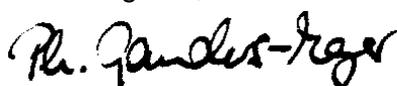
The German NF prefers the current starting order used for the Olympic Team competition instead of having all 4 (3) riders in the arena together.

6. Positive Scoring System: We agree with such ideas as we proposed this already about 15 years ago. However, in order not to have unforeseen negative effects, it is very important to fully keep the relation of the scoring of the different tests and faults.
7. Name of the sport: The German NF agrees with the EEF proposal to address the creation of ideas to professionals from outside of the sport.
8. Apart from this the Olympic Qualifying system needs to be revised. A reduction of the allowed composite teams to one or two will secure the chance for the best teams to compete while at the same time could allow further individuals (flags) to reach their "Olympic Dream".

## SESSION 8: EVENTING RULES REVISION

1. From the point of view of the development of the sport, we agree with introducing a 1.05 m star level and having 5 different star levels altogether. But lifting the star levels will surely bring a lot of confusion amongst riders, trainers, officials and NFs.  
We do not agree with naming the current 4-Stars only "Classics" as this name is not expressing the highest level of the sport well enough.
2. We absolutely disagree with adopting the Olympic Format for WEG also, as we should keep the true team competition on the highest level and the chance to give World Championship chances to 6 riders per nation.
3. We agree with the new MER parameters.
4. We appreciate the efforts for progress in allowing more frangible devices.
5. We support the ideas concerning indoor Eventing competitions.

On behalf of the German NF  
With best regards,



Philine Ganders-Meyer  
- Coordinator Eventing -

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## **Comments from ARD/ZDF regarding the format of three team riders in the Equestrian Olympic Disciplines**

In the framework of sports reporting, ARD and ZDF attach great importance to Equestrian sport in all its facets. Consequently, the equestrian Olympic disciplines during the Summer Olympic Games have their very own high value.

Like in all other sports, media-compatible presentation of and media attention to the disciplines play a superordinate role, media impact being particularly highly valued in the Agenda 2020 of the IOC.

From the point of view of ARD and ZDF, a reduction of the team from 4 to 3 riders as it is currently being discussed for the Team Competitions of the equestrian Olympic disciplines is regarded as a step into the wrong direction. The changes will have a negative effect on the presentation.

The drop score is the decisive element of suspense (media attention), because only in this format victory or defeat can be determined by the second last or even by the last competitor.

For teams of only 3 riders the danger to lose the chance for a medal already with the first rider is very serious. If the first competitor was out, no suspense could be created.

It is suspense and drama until the end that provides the sports entertaining factor of an equestrian decision, and this cannot be maintained.

ARD and ZDF agree that the argument from the animal welfare's perspective is a heavy one, namely that riders are at risk to overstrain their horses if they know they must complete the round because their result will be counted. This cannot be taken serious enough in the discussion about a format change.

Moreover, for the television viewer the format "4 riders per team/drop score" first of all means lived Olympic practice in this traditional Olympic sport. Secondly, this rule can easily be explained to the public again and again.

From the perspective of ARD and ZDF, due to the aforementioned reasons a format change towards "3 riders/no drop score" is not desirable.

Kind regards,

Axel Balkausky, ARD

Gert Herrmann, ZDF

(Translation of a message from German public service broadcasters ARD and ZDF dated 9 March 2016)