



Giuseppe Della Chiesa,
Chairman
FEI Eventing Committee

20 March 2016

Dear Giuseppe and Committee,

As organizer of one of the FEI Classics Series, the Australian International Three Day Event, (AdelaideCCI4*) I would like to put forward our comments on the latest FEI Committee communication regarding points for discussion at the up coming FEI Forum, which unfortunately I am unable to attend and proposed rules for 2017.

While the Australian Federation will be putting forward their considered response on the paper in full, I would like to comment on those points which have specific relevance to the Adelaide CCI4*

Name of the Sport/Discipline and Star levels:

I am in favour of a change if it has a positive effect on the marketing and understanding of our Sport of Eventing from a public perspective, and agree with the logic here. Horse Sports in the Olympics are known as 'Equestrian' and our sport of eventing – is the Equestrian Triathlon (or Triathlon of Horse sport ?) Or even an Equestrathon (ie without the 'l' for ease of pronunciation)

While the Australian International 3 Day Event is known by many as Adelaide4* our marketing people are forever confused with ' why is a 3 Day Event over 4 days ? Horse Trials makes more sense in a way – but there are issues with the translation of 'Horse Trials' in some countries outside UK.

Marketing people are also continually saying ' Why is the highest level of eventing 4* when the highest level Dressage and Jumping shows are 5* ? and "why are Badminton and Burghley (and Rolex, Pau, Luhmuhlen and Adelaide) not 5* ?

I agree the addition of a 1* at 1.05 is a great initiative for all the reasons we all understand.. and all star levels moving up 1 level also then works – but why does 4* go to Classics and not 5*?

The Classics' name is very hard to market in Australia as it has no relevance to anything in Australia while 5* makes absolute sense, it would be easy to market and it reflects quality and prestige.

I understand the issue with the thought that the Olympics are not then at the 'highest level of the sport' if they are at the 'New 4* level ' and there is a 5* level . However, the 5* Events are competitions for individuals at the highest level of the sport and not a team competition.

What is the actual difference if you have new 4*level at the Olympics then 5* as the highest level of the sport instead of 4star for the Olympics and Classics as the highest level of the sport? It is all in the perception and the explanation to that perception. – why even use the 'stars' for discussion around the Olympics as they should have their own dimensions for the competition and already have their own Olympics only dressage test..

While Aachen is the template to what a CIC4*(new 5*) Short may/ should look like – the long format is really the pinnacle of the sport and that's what makes up the 6 top events in the FEI (ideally 5*) Series.

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Qualifications of Athletes

As per the table below,

| | New | Existing |
|---------------|---|---|
| Cross Country | Max of 20 penalties at obstacle (not more than 60 seconds exceeding the optimum time (or due to special weather conditions the best time of the day if all athletes are over the optimum time) | Clear at obstacle (not more than 90 seconds exceeding the optimum time) |

Does this mean that ALL MER will allow up to 20 penalties crosscountry ? Until now, 2 of 3 required MER must have clear XC and ONE of 3 can have up to 20 (including frangible). Surely this is a major watering down of Cross country MER with the possibility for a horse to move up the levels with penalties xc at each start. . I would strongly not support his change in rule for safety reasons.

In addition, the Classics Event Organisers agree, the previous FEI organised meetings of all Classics organisers with the FEI Commercial Dept. and Eventing Committee are very useful and we miss not having had a meeting for a couple of years.

As the Classics Organisers are experienced in promoting our sport of Eventing through all forms of media we would welcome the opportunity to discuss and have input into a meeting with those charged with improving the presentation of the Sport.

If the FEI facilitated a meeting of Classics organisers with the Commercial Dept. and Eventing Committee, a session with those working on Sport Presentation would be very useful to share ideas .

In conclusion, I agree, it is imperative that the Sport of Eventing is kept in the Olympics for so many reasons but it is also important to maintain the relevance of the Events which are at the pinnacle of the sport worldwide.

Best Regards

Gillian Rolton

Gillian Rolton
Event Director

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