

British Eventing response to proposed FEI 2017 Eventing Rules Revision

1. Continuation of current rule book system or one rule book including all Dressage and Jumping rules applying for Eventing

GBR Response: Agree with the proposal to maintain an Eventing specific rule book, specifying exceptions from the Dressage and Jumping rules where appropriate.

2. Competition Levels and Formats:

- The introduction of a lower level event of a XC at 1.05 meter level. This new category would allow a smoother transition between national and international competitions in the developing countries. The level can be used for the Pony championship and can be the basis for developing a Children level/category in Eventing.

GBR Response: We agree that the introduction of a XC at 1.05m would be a positive move allowing a smoother transition to International competition in developing countries. However, of serious concern would be the timescale to introduce this new level. If this was to become an integral part of the MER system then NF's must be given sufficient time to adopt this new level (a minimum of 2 years, i.e. in 2018 or 2019). In terms of being used as a basis for the Pony Championships we would agree the concept but would need to fully understand if the 1.05m level would be used for qualification purposes as we do not run any competitions at this level in GBR.

- As a consequence shift the star system up one level, the new level to become new 1 star, current 1 star = new 2 star, current 2 star = new 3 star, current 3 star = new 4 star

GBR Response: We agree that it would be logical to shift the star system up one level if the 1.05m level is introduced.

- Rename as a separate category named "Classics" the current 4 star allowing also for a short format version.

GBR Response: It would be more logical to classify the 5* level as 5* Classics, rather than just Classics. To remove the star level would simply make it more difficult for the general public to understand when trying to compare existing star levels and how the classics fit in. The minor adjustments to the proposed "Classics" such as XC jumping efforts and dimensions could be a positive move.

We do not agree that the introduction of a "Short" format for 5 is appropriate or needed. The 5* level should be the pinnacle of the sport and not diminished by the addition of another format.*

If a new event at (current) 4 level was added to the existing calendar would it automatically become a "Classic".*

- Bring in line the technical requirements for WEG and Olympic Games

GBR Response: Before we are able to comment effectively please provide clarification of what encompasses "technical requirements".

- **Formats:** For (new) 1 star and 2 star levels is proposed to study a unified competition format for each level while for (new) 3 and 4 star is proposed to retain both the long and short format.

GBR Response: We fully agree with the retention of short and long format at the (new) 3 and 4* level. We agree that it would be sensible to have a unified 1* level. We strongly disagree with the proposal to unify the (new) 2* level. This is the most important level of competition in terms of ensuring that a competitor is capable of moving up to the next level. Any amendment in the format of competition levels must be given proper lead time to enable NF's to adapt to the changes. From the Eventing Independent Audit it clearly shows that the risk ratio for the current 2* is higher than that of 1* level. Surely by unifying the current 1* level (probably combining the existing long and short format technical requirements) will result in a probable increase in the risk ratio.*

The current CCI1 is an intrinsic part of the MER pathway to CCI2*. What evidence has been found to remove this important Long Format level of competition?*

- **Championships:** Current 1, 2 & 3star championships will be held at the new 2, 3 & 4 star level of competition.

GBR Response: We fully support this proposal

3. QUALIFICATIONS OF ATHLETES & HORSES (MER)

The Eventing Committee is proposing review of the Eligibility requirements further also to the conclusions of the Eventing Independent Audit.

- to follow the qualification principle that the qualification needs to be made at the level of the championship, is proposed for all Championships.

GBR Response: We agree with the principal but must ensure that this is not led by the discussion about the level for the Olympics and WEG.

- It is proposed to revise the MER parameters to ensure the standard of participation of all athletes and horses:

Test	New	Current requirements
Dressage	not more than 67 than Penalty points	75 Penalty points
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
Jumping	not more than 12 penalties at obstacles	not more than 16 penalties at obstacles

GBR Response: The increase in the requirements for the Dressage and Jumping phase are understood and may assist with Risk Management principles. However, we do not support the change to the Cross Country jumping penalties. This fundamentally goes against everything that has been discussed in relation to Risk Management, both Nationally and Internationally. A worst case scenario

would be a combination that could reach 4 having had 20 penalties XC at every qualifying event. This would be a retrograde step.*

4. DRESSAGE TESTS

New additional short and long 4-star Dressage

- New 1 star test
- Shorter time for the Dressage Test (e.g. speed up entry and exit of horses in the arena, deletion of collective marks, taking out 1st salute etc.)

GBR Response: We agree with these proposals.

5. POSITIVE SCORING

Taking into account the suggestions of several NFs in regard to the removal of the coefficient for Dressage and implementation of a positive scoring, the Eventing Committee is suggesting two alternative proposals for a new scoring system, to help make the understanding of the sport more self-explanatory to a wider audience in line with the IOC Agenda 2020:

- **Proposal A:** Dressage percentage to represent directly (without coefficient) the positive score from where to eventually deduct current Cross Country and Jumping penalties. Athlete with the highest score wins.

For the purpose of the Team competition a combination non-completing the Cross Country Test will be awarded 80/100 penalties a combination not passing the horse inspection or non-completing the Jumping test will be awarded 40/50 penalties (to be discussed).

- **Proposal B:** Each test is valued from a maximum of 100 points and added together. Dressage score is given by dressage percentage (without coefficient), XC score is given by 100 deducted of any jumping or time faults; Jumping score is given by 100 deducted by any Jumping or time faults. Final score is given by adding together the scores of the three tests. Athlete with the highest score wins.

GBR Response: We think these proposals are very interesting, particularly Proposal B. Proposal B is very simple to understand and would undoubtedly help make the sport clearer to an outside audience. It would be essential to model both proposals against all recent results at a variety of levels and Championships to ensure they accurately reflect the results and to ensure that the balance between the 3 phases remains the same. Also, we would be grateful for clarification on how many penalties it is proposed a horse will get if it's eliminated in the dressage phase.

6. Dress code

For the Eventing Dressage and Jumping tests, the Eventing Committee suggests to line up with the proposals coming from the relevant disciplines. For the Cross Country test all nations will have to use national flag colours for dress and saddle pads to clearly identify and differentiate the countries. Colours and pattern to be registered in advance to allow differences between nations.

GBR Response: Please can it be clarified whether this rule is for Championships or all FEI events.

7. Renaming of the discipline

Further to proposals of FEI external consultancy, the Eventing Committee are suggesting the following options for the review of the NFs to promote the **understanding of the sport to new audiences**:

- Equestrian Triathlon
- Equi-triathlon
- Equestrio
- Triquestrian

GBR Response: Have the results from the independent research been received? If so, can they be shared with NF's?

8. OTHER POINTS FOR 2017 RULES FOR EVENTING

Further to the general changes proposed above, the Eventing Committee are proposing also for implementation the following updates for the rules clarify and improve wordings, including requests from NFs received in October 2015:

- Additional CIO (art.501.2): It is suggested to line up with the General Regulations and allow the possibility in exceptional circumstances to organize one Young Rider or Junior Official competition per country in addition to a Senior Official competition.

GBR Response: We agree with this proposal.

- Prizemoney (art.505.3.1): It is proposed to remove the mandatory split of PM for team competition. The reason being that should a few number of teams participate it is difficult to follow the “not more than one third of the total amount of money” to be awarded to the winner.

GBR Response: We agree with this proposal.

- Entries and Certificate of Capability (art.509 and 516): update to align articles with the implementation of the FEI Online Entry System.

GBR Response: We agree with this proposal.

- National Officials (art. 513): It is suggested to amend this article to allow Assistant Technical Delegate, Assistant Course Designer & Assistant Steward to officiate abroad, providing they have the correct insurance coverage.

GBR Response: We agree with this proposal.

- Spurs: “Vertical” requirement for spurs would be removed to align with Dressage Rules.

GBR Response: We agree with this proposal.

Cross Country Test: Faults at Obstacles:

The Bureau will be asked for approval for immediate implementation of the following change referring to adapting the wording 1* Explanatory note and procedure for the implementation of the penalties for activation of a frangible pin. The reason is to allow additional deformable devices to be used in events this year. The deformable device in question has been reviewed by the different testing authorities.

1* Explanatory note and procedure for the implementation of the penalty for “Activating a frangible device”: *Each Athlete activating a frangible device will be awarded 11 penalties whenever the activation occurs as expected (i.e. activation by significant pressure exerted by the Horse which modifies the dimension of the fence). In the case (...)*

GBR Response: Please can information be provided on the new deformable device that has been reviewed by the different testing authorities?

Indoor/Arena Cross Country Rules:

GBR Response: NIL

9. Independent Eventing Audit

The Eventing Committee reviewed the full Independent Eventing Audit report and further to approval of the Bureau are recommending:

1. The report be published with the comments of the Eventing Committee

GBR Response: We agree with this proposal.

2. Improvement of analysis of data collected by the FEI through appointment of specific experts to perform an ongoing review of data, indicators, trends and monitor impact of rule changes and rule proposals with objective scientific based methods. 2 persons that would be able to provide this input and would report to the Eventing department have been identified.

GBR Response: We agree with this proposal.

3. Organizing a yearly Course Designer/Technical Delegates meeting to coordinate initiatives, exchange best practices and share specific information on course designing and new technologies.

GBR Response: We agree with this proposal.

4. A reviewed qualification process and higher technical parameters for minimum eligibility requirements (MERs) together with the above mentioned new categorization system of event.

GBR Response: We agree with this proposal. As a NF we already require higher technical parameters for MER's at all levels.