

## Session 8 – Eventing

### Eventing Committee's Summary of proposals for 2017 Rules for Eventing revision

This executive summary contains the main concepts relating to the review of the Olympic Formats proposed by the Eventing Committee, and presented to the FEI Sports Forum 2016 participants by Giuseppe Della Chiesa, Eventing Committee Chair; Patricia Clifton and Daisy Berkeley, Members of the Committee; and Catrin Norinder, Eventing and Olympic Director.

#### 1. GENERAL POINT: CONTINUATION OF CURRENT RULE BOOK SYSTEM OR ONE RULE BOOK INCLUDING ALL DRESSAGE AND JUMPING RULES APPLYING FOR EVENTING

**Proposal:** The Eventing Committee suggested to maintain the current reference to the Dressage and Jumping Rule books and specify only the exceptions in the Eventing Rules to provide a cohesion between the Olympic disciplines as their evolution is closely related. The review of the existing rules was required to clearly define exceptions only.

**Conclusion:** Further to the input from the participants, the Eventing Committee would study the possibility of including the Dressage and Jumping parts required for Eventing in the specific rules, with the understanding that there would always be the need to go back to the essence of each discipline, even if essential information was consolidated in one Rulebook.

#### 2. COMPETITION LEVELS & FORMATS

**a. Introduction of a lower level** event category with Cross Country at 1.05 meter level to encourage the transition between national and international competitions in the developing countries. The category would be the basis for Pony Championships and possible children's competitions. As a consequence of the introduction of a new 1 star, the current star categories would shift up one level.

**Conclusion:** The participants supported the introduction of the lower level event as a concept, with the understanding that the new 1 star level would be optional and not a compulsory level for qualification. The speed, distances and obstacle dimensions would need to be further studied, and the definition of this new category would need to be further reviewed.

**b. Introduction of a separate category named "Classics"** to replace the current long 4 star, and adding a new short format of the same level to be developed into a separate level of special competitions.

**Conclusion:** the participants did not support the new 5 star level to be named Classics, and favored retaining the definition of 5 star for this category.

The addition of a short format was supported, the Eventing Committee would review prize money, organisational requirements, and eligibility criteria in consultation with Organisers for this specific level of competition in Eventing.

**c. Reclassification of the Olympic Games and FEI World Equestrian Games™ (WEG);** line up the technical requirements for both main championships further to the recommendation of the Eventing Audit, to allow Athlete/Horse combinations to qualify at Championship Cross Country level, using an established and geographically well spread qualifying system of existing competitions.

WEG and Olympic Games would still be considered the highest level team competition. The proposal included a change of principle to promote four star level events for individual competition only and team competitions including a slightly different Cross Country level.

**Conclusion:** It was agreed that Athletes needed to qualify at the level of the Championships they were competing at: the introducing a short four star (4 star level Dressage & Jumping Tests - 6 min Cross Country test / 4\* star fences) would answer this requirement.

No consensus was reached in regard to the level of the Olympic Games and WEG, but the need of being more inclusive, encouraging a strong Olympic participation, and showing the best picture of the Sport was a priority. Whether the WEG and OG formats needed to be lined up needed to be reviewed. The Eventing Committee would assess the different possibilities as well as the consequences and implications linked to each option.

**d. Unifying the lower level formats:** a unified competition format for (new) 1 star and 2 star levels while retaining for (new) 3 and 4 star both the long and short format was proposed.

**Conclusion:** The participants agreed that the new 1 star level competition be unified and the higher levels continued to be split between short and long format competitions. Technical specifications like speed / dimensions for the new level would be finalised at a later stage. The use of short and long format instead of CIC and CCI was strongly supported.

### 3. QUALIFICATIONS OF ATHLETES & HORSES (MER)

**Proposal:** Review of the Eligibility requirements (MER) in line with the Eventing Audit to: 1. ensure that the MERs are achieved at the level of the championship, 2. Increase the parameters for the MERs.

**Conclusion:** A majority of the participants welcomed the proposal to upgrade the Dressage and Jumping requirements for the MERs. Maintaining the clear round requirement on Cross Country was supported. A possible adjustment of the time limit in case of difficult weather conditions could be included further to a study of the results data and under the provision that a decision be made in time for the first start. The lack of consistency regarding the level of difficulty between competitions of the same level in Europe for obtaining MERs needed to be considered.

### 4. DRESSAGE TESTS

**Proposal:** Three new Dressage tests to be developed (short & long 4-star Dressage /New 1 star test), as well as ideas to allow for immediate announcement of results (as the rider comes out of the dressage arena) for better TV picture and understanding. (E.g. shorten the time of the Dressage test, speed up entry and exit of horses in the arena, deletion of collective marks, taking out first salute etc.)

**Conclusion:** The development of new 1 and 4 star tests was welcomed. The concept of shortening the Dressage Tests was understood, but needed to be further studied. It was highlighted that any change to the scoring systems would involve extra cost to NFs.

### 5. POSITIVE SCORING

**Proposal:** Further to the proposal of several NFs to remove the coefficient for Dressage and implementation of a different positive scoring system, the Committee presented two alternative proposals which could also allow for better understanding and promote a more self-explanatory sport to a wider audience in line with the Olympic Agenda 2020.

**A:** Dressage percentage to represent directly (without coefficient) the positive score from where to deduct Cross Country and Jumping potential penalties. Athlete with the highest score wins, team competition penalties to be discussed.

**B:** Each test is valued from a maximum of 100 points, and added together. The total of points are given at the beginning. Dressage score is given by dressage percentage (without coefficient), XC & Jumping scores are given by 100, with deductions of any jumping or time faults; final score is given by adding together the scores of the three tests. Athlete with the highest score wins.

**Conclusion:** A majority of the participants supported a change to a positive scoring, and to review the coefficient for dressage; simulations on both systems needed to be obtained to understand the balance between the different tests.

Considerations needed also to be given to the costs for implementing these changes at national level, as well as a reasonable timeframe for implementation.

### 6. DRESS CODE

**Proposal:** For the Cross Country test, all nations to wear national flag colours on Athletes and Horse (dress and saddle pads) to clearly identify and differentiate the countries for spectators

and TV broadcast. Colours and pattern to be registered in advance to ensure differences between nations with similar flag colours. Eventing Dressage and Jumping tests to be lined up with the proposals coming from the both disciplines.

**Conclusion:** In principle, this proposal, was positively welcomed to apply for Official Team Competitions only; more work was required related to registration of colours (Jockey Club procedures to be studied).

#### **7. RENAMING OF THE DISCIPLINE**

**Proposal:** It had been clearly identified that the name "Eventing" was not describing Equestrian sport in particular nor was it used consistently worldwide to define the competition. Review of the name could improve the promotion for the initiation and presentation of the sport to new audiences. Proposals from FEI external consultancy and Eventing Committee included: Equestrian Triathlon, Equi-triathlon, Equestrio, and Triquestrian.

**Conclusion:** Some participants questioned the need of the name change, its marketing and audience impact whereas others welcomed a change. If Eventing was to retain its current name, a branding strategy needed to be considered. The Eventing Committee agreed that this topic needed to be further discussed outside of the Eventing Community with communications professionals.

#### **8. OTHER POINTS FOR 2017 RULES FOR EVENTING AND INDEPENDENT AUDIT**

Some additional points were not discussed due to time constraints and the proposals did not include any change of principles. The full list of rule changes and explanations would be included in the changes/updates submitted to the NFs in July.

The Audit recommendations were included in the above discussions.