

Session 6 – FEI WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES™ COMPETITION FORMATS

DRIVING

Introduction

Further to development of new formats in the Olympic disciplines, the Driving Technical Committee has begun working on the development of new formats for Driving, and the analysis of different scenarios to ensure that Driving is maintained at WEG, taking into consideration the financial issues involved for NFs when they have to send their teams overseas.

This document presents statistics on the previous editions of World Equestrian Games (overseas and Europe based) and a forecast of attendance at WEG2018 in Canada, reflecting the results of the questionnaire sent to NFs in June 2015.

Many NFs are hesitant to send a team of Four-in-Hand Drivers to Canada, given the high costs involved in the traveling of Horses and carriages. The numbers that come out of the questionnaire sent to NFs in June 2015 do not seem to truly reflect the reality of current plans.

The situation for 2018 could be very similar to WEG 2010 in Kentucky. We ended up with 7 nations sending a team and 9 nations sending Athletes.

Should we get similar entries in 2018, the numbers would be in line with Article 104.1.2 of the General Regulations which mentions that "Unless the Sport Rules of the relevant Discipline provide otherwise, at least nine (9) NFs must have been entered in the Definite Entries of an FEI World Championship for seniors for it to be considered a Championship". We must however make sure this will be the case in 2018 as well.

Statistics past editions

The statistics reflect the attendance at WEG for Four-in-Hand Horses. The detail of the NFs who sent a team or only Individuals are shown in the table below, as well as the forecast for 2018, as shown in the results of the questionnaire sent to NFs in 2015.

Horses Four-in-Hand

	WEG 2010	WEG 2014	WEG 2018 Forecast
	Lexington (USA)	Caen (FRA)	Bromont (CAN)
Drivers	25	46	27
Horses	125	219	135
NFs entered	9	17	15
Teams	7	14	12
Indiv. Only	2	3	3

Proposed competition Format Driving H4

The Driving Technical Committee is in favor of Four-in-Hand Horses at WEG to ensure top sport quality.

Driving Four-in-hand ensures featuring the top quality of the discipline. Athletes at the highest level of the sport compete and Horses Four-in-Hand is attractive for public.

This, for WEG 2018 in Bromont (CAN) however could require careful consideration of financial support to NFs.

Competition format

Numbers:

Based on the statistics above, the best format to support the largest possible number of competing Nations is that a nation's team should be composed of two Drivers. The Driving Technical Committee proposed the two following amendment:

- a) To allow a maximum of two (2) Four-in-Hands per nation on each Team instead of maximum three (3) on a team. More NFs could envisage to send a team of two Athletes with even chances of success.
- b) To remove the drop score for the team competition.

Competition formats:

The following format was proposed at the Sports Forum in 2015 for Horses Four-in-hand with 20 to 25 Drivers entered:

Competitions	Days	AM	PM
Dressage	Day 1	Individual Competition individual Test	Team competition Individual kür or Pas-de-Deux with two Drivers per nation
Marathon	Day 2	one day	
Cones	Day 3	Team and Individual Final	Combined Marathon for top ten Individuals Or final Top 4 (or more?) <i>same format as in Jumping</i>

Qualification Criteria

The current qualification criteria will remain, but we may have to introduce a quota system should any financial support be envisaged.

Current qualification criteria

Open to Athletes who meet the following criteria:

At two (2) International combined driving events, 3* Drivers must achieve a score of 65 points or less in the Dressage test (Test 3*B HP4) and have successfully completed (without Elimination, Disqualification or Retirement) all three competitions (Dressage, Cones, Marathon) in their own class.

One of the qualifying result as defined above must be achieved no earlier than on the 1st January of the year in which the Championships take place and no later than the end date of the qualification period.