

Session 6 – OLYMPIC COMPETITION FORMAT

Eventing

Introduction/Background

Following the IOC Agenda 2020 recommendations, the FEI has undertaken a consultation process with all stakeholders. The consultation started at the 2015 FEI Sports Forum in Lausanne in April, specifically for Eventing three dedicated Eventing Open Forums were organised in 2015: Toronto (CAN) during the Pan American Games, Blair Castle (GBR) at the European Championships and in Boekelo (NED) Asia-Pacific qualifier for the Olympic Games.

Three ideas for innovative formats were proposed by the Eventing Committee, Chris Bartle (GER) and British Eventing. For different reasons none of the initial formats proposed looked practical given the particular nature of the Eventing discipline and constraints of the Olympic competition.

Similar efforts were undertaken by the other Olympic disciplines and a new harmonized Format proposal for the 3 Equestrian Olympic Disciplines was presented to the National Federations during the FEI General Assembly in November 2015.

In the recent weeks a meeting took place in London with several representatives of the Eventing community and the Eventing Committee received much appreciated feedback from the NFs involved.

The Eventing Committee met on 1-2 March and reviewed the overall situation from a wider perspective and together with the FEI President came to the conclusion that certain considerations are paramount in formulating any proposal for Equestrian sports that can have the chance to receive a positive reception by the IOC:

- the shift of the Olympic Program evaluation from number of sports to number of events allow the IOC to drop any of the 6 events of Equestrian whilst maintaining Equestrian as a core sport
- Equestrian events are under pressure from new sports that wish to participate in the Olympic Program
- All efforts to increase the number of nations within the quota are paramount
- Equestrian sport needs to evolve and a new approach to develop the sport and the fan base and TV viewers is essential
- Equestrian sports is part of one family and solidarity between disciplines is crucial

To address these challenges, after careful review of the different comments submitted, the Eventing Committee unanimously agreed to maintain the principles of the proposal presented at the General Assembly with a number of further specifications to be discussed at the FEI Sport Forum.

1. The **traditional order of tests** (Dressage - Cross Country - Jumping) held on consecutive days, allows retaining the essence of the discipline (equal importance of the 3 tests), **ensuring best monitoring for horse welfare and reliability of immediate results**. Such format is also the most cost effective and adaptable to specific logistical challenges of the Olympic Games (e.g. separate XC venue, same Dressage and Show Jumping arena, etc.).
2. As discussed with the IOC to retain **one Cross Country test** for both the Team and Individual athletes/horses to ensure that the best Team and Individuals compete for medals and adapt the Jumping tests to differentiate Team and Individual classification.

3. In line with Jumping and Dressage to limit the participation to a **maximum of 3 riders per nation** with the deletion of the drop score for the team competition in order to address the main objective of a more open and inclusive competition.

This proposal is part of a more general strategical and coordinated approach for the long term development of the discipline and consists in the following additional main points that will be proposed and discussed in more detail in the Eventing Rules Session:

- General update of the categorization and star level system
- Positive scoring system
- Dress code
- Renaming of the discipline

Olympic competition format

- A. **With a maximum of three (3) horse/athlete combination** per nation, each nation participating with **a team be entitled to a reserve combination (or reserve horse)**.
- B. **The Dressage test to be organised in 1 day.** A 5-minute 4 star test to be developed and ideas on shortening the competition to maximum 6 hours for 65 athletes are under discussion (e.g. speed up entry and exit of horses in the arena, deletion of collective marks, taking out 1st salute etc.). Traditional starting order of teams and individuals.
- C. **The Cross Country Test to be organised in 1 day** in the traditional starting order of teams and individuals. Technical level: 10 minute cross country course, 45 efforts.
- D. **The Jumping tests (Individual) and (Team) to be organised in 1 day:**
 - a. Individual Final (also qualifier for Teams, to be divided into two sessions to have a shorter final of only the best 20 individuals) Technical level 4 star (130 – 13/16 efforts)
 - b. Team final (for the best 6 teams) Technical level 4 star (different course 130 - 10/12 efforts)

Team qualifier and Individual final		Team Final
Part 1	Part 2	
For the combinations placed after 20 th place following Cross Country	For the 20 best ranked combinations following Cross Country	For the 6 best teams (18 combinations) following Cross Country
	Individual Medals	Team Medals

To enhance the “Team” element of the Team Final competition, all three members of each team enter the arena together and individually start at a short interval one after the other. This would allow easy and immediate comprehension of the team scores and placing. Team Chefs to choose the starting order within their team at the end of the Individual Jumping, Teams will start in reverse order of merit. The Team Final be shorter less demanding course that the Individual Jumping.

For the purpose of the Team classification combinations eliminated or retired on Cross Country will be allowed to start the Jumping test after successfully passing the horse inspection. Relevant penalties will be awarded according to which scoring system will be chosen (see following point on scoring).

- E. **Review of the Olympic qualification system for 2020**

General update of the competition star level system

A lower level new 1 star level to be introduced, 1,2,3 star existing categories to be upgraded one level, use of the current Olympic format for Olympic and WEG, renaming the current CCI4* to "Classics" as a special category outside of the star system.

Positive scoring system

Introduction of a positive scoring system. Athlete with the highest score wins. Two proposals are currently under discussion:

- A. Dressage percentage to represent directly (without coefficient) the positive score from where to eventually deduct current Cross Country and Jumping penalties.

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).

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

For the purpose of the Team competition any test non-completed will be awarded 0 points.

Dress code

For dressage and jumping tests Eventing will 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.

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