

Session 6 – PARALYMPIC COMPETITION FORMAT

PARA-EQUESTRIAN DRESSAGE

Introduction

The FEI Para-Equestrian Committee were given a clear direction to review the format of the Paralympic Games, and in more general the Championship format for Para-Equestrian Dressage competitions post Rio 2016. The Committee aimed to seek solutions which satisfied the following key objectives:

- To ensure Paralympic status, global reach is required, hence the need for more NPCs participating
- Likewise, the sport programme should be made easier to understand
- The cost of hosting the Games should be minimised
- To be in line with the proposed Olympic discipline changes, a team shall compose of 3 Athletes only with no drop score counting towards the team result
- Ideally one performance equals one medal
- To retain the same number of medals at the Games, as Nations are driven by medals

The following proposal is based on the IPC Paralympic Games quota of 78 combinations participating at the Games.

Participation

15 Nations with 3 combinations per team	45 combinations
15 Team Reserves/Additional Individuals (for the 15 team nations above)	15 combinations
18 Individuals (maximum 1 per nation not already qualified)	18 combinations
This would result in 33 nations qualified combinations	Total 78

This format would satisfy the need for more NPCs (27 NPCs participated in London 2012), as well as the desire to have 3 combinations per team with no drop score. The inclusion of a team reserve/ additional individual athlete would lessen the impact to NFs who have previously had up to 5 athletes and a drop score.

Further reasoning for the inclusion of team reserve/additional individual athletes (taking an NPC's maximum quota to 4) is the number of available participating nations in the sport at present. With 34 NPCs currently on the Paralympic Rankings list, the potential for 33 NPCs qualifying under this method seems appropriate.

Competition Format

To consider the need to make hosting the Games cost effective, and to assist in achieving integrated Championships by making it easier for OCs to fit Para-Equestrian into the schedule, the options considered have been planned using 4 days only (compared to the current format of 5 or 6 days). This would be the minimum time taken whilst still maintaining three tests and therefore 3 sets of medals.

Please note that any reference to days relate to competition days, rather than actual days. Consideration may have to be given to rest days to avoid horses competing on three consecutive days.

Day	Test	Number of starts	Eligibility	Medals
1 & 2	Individual Test	78	All combinations	Individual Medals
3	Freestyle Test	40	Top 8 per grade from Individual Test	Freestyle Medals
4	Team Test (to Music)	45	Selected by Chef d'Equipe Max. 3 per team	Team Medal

This proposal is based on the model presented by the Dressage Committee at the 2015 FEI GA in Puerto Rico.

Setting the Team Test to music would add to the attractiveness and audience enjoyment, however the music would not be judged. It would be provided by the athlete but not form part of the overall scoring.

The Team Test would be a long day and require the Ground Jury to judge 45 tests or the OC would have to provide additional Ground Jury members. There also may be some athletes on day 4 who have not ridden on day 3. In this instance, they will not have had the same amount of Field of Play time as fellow competitors.