

Session 4: FEI Championships Review

Tuesday, 30 April, 09:00 – 12:00

Speakers' biographies

Tim Hadaway (FEI HQ) - Director, Games Operations Moderator

Tim has been the FEI Director of Games Operations since 2013, supporting and assisting coordination between the FEI and Organisers of major events such as the Olympic and Paralympic Games and World Championships. His role is very much in line with the "New Norm" recommendations introduced by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 2018, which aims for greater involvement from International Federations (IFs) and IF expertise in the delivery of the Games.

Áine Power (FEI HQ) – Deputy Legal Director

Áine Power is Deputy Legal Director. Áine joined the FEI in March 2014. She works on a range of legal issues including the FEI Rules and Regulations, commercial contracts, the bidding processes for FEI Events, safeguarding athlete welfare and litigation.

Áine is a qualified Irish lawyer and, before specialising in sports law, worked as a corporate lawyer in Dublin, Ireland. In addition to her law degree, she holds an International Master in Management, Law and Humanities of Sport from the prestigious FIFA Master programme (2011).

Ralph Straus (FEI HQ) – FEI Commercial Director

Ralph Straus has been the FEI's Commercial Director since 2015. Prior to joining the FEI, Straus was Vice President of Marketing and Communications at EXPO 2020 in the United Arab Emirates. He was also Head of Strategy and Brand Management at FIFA, where he oversaw the brand development for all FIFA events, the global licensing program and all marketing activities, including the FIFA Fan Fests and the FIFA Interactive World Cup, the largest football eSports competition world-wide. Prior to FIFA, he worked at Swisscom and Shell on various strategic initiatives.

Simone Perillo – Secretary General, Italian Equestrian Federation (FISE)

Simone Perillo has been the Secretary General of the Italian Equestrian Federation (*Federazione Italiana Sport Equestri* FISE) since 2017 and a Board member of the European Equestrian Federation (EEF) since 2021.

Before joining FISE, he worked at the Italian Olympic Committee (2015-2016), Ferrari S.p.A. alongside President Montezemolo (2012-2014), and was the Secretary General of the Formula One Teams Association (FOTA) from 2009 to 2011.

Before his involvement in the sports industry, Simone Perillo worked in the International Relations Department of Confindustria, Italy's main industrial association.

Michael Stone – President, Wellington International (WI)

Michael Stone currently serves as the President of Wellington International (WI), which organises 40 weeks of horse shows including 15 weeks of FEI Jumping events at all Levels including four CSI 5* events and a CSIO as well as seven weeks of CDIs including a CDI 5* and a CDIO. He oversees all aspects of management, as well as holds responsibility for community outreach efforts, alongside marketing and promotional campaigns for WI. He is the representative and liaison to the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF), FEI, and other related organisations. Michael Stone was the Sports Director for the FEI World Equestrian Games™ 2018 in Tryon, NC (USA) and has organised events in numerous locations in the US.

Before joining the ESP Team, Stone worked for the FEI for 11 years, holding an array of job responsibilities during his tenure, serving as the Secretary General, Sports Director, Assistant Secretary General, and Development Officer.

He is a member of the United States Hunter Jumper Association and several United States Equestrian Federation Committees as well as a member of the FEI Jumping Committee.

Casper Cassøe Krüth – Chief Operating Officer, Global Equestrian Group

Casper Cassøe Krüth is the Chief Operating Officer for the Global Equestrian Group, which comprises a range of top sporting brands within the equestrian industry. He holds a wealth of experience as an event organiser for over 20 years, having organised national and international equestrian events all the way up to 5* level, including the annual FEI Dressage World Cup™ qualifier at Herning (DEN). He served as the CEO Operations of the highly successful FEI World Championships 2022.

Casper Cassøe Krüth is married to Olympian and team world champion in Dressage Carina Cassøe Kruth.

Nayla Stoessel – President, Longines CSIO St. Gallen

Nayla Stoessel is an expert in the Swiss sports industry and is actively involved in international equestrianism. She has been the President of Longines CSIO5* St. Gallen, venue of the Longines League of Nations, since 2012. She is a Board member of both the Swiss and European Equestrian Federations.

In addition, Nayla Stoessel is a Board member of Swiss Top Sports, the union of Switzerland's most important sports events and Co-President of Wirtschafts Region St. Gallen (WISG), the employers' organisation and business association of the city area of St. Gallen.