



FEI™

**ENDURANCE
CONFERENCE**

7-8 April 2018

Dubai

Conclusions from Vic

The 2017 FEI Endurance Forum

- Date and location: 23 & 24 May 2017, Vic, Spain
- NFs represented: 26
- FEI Groups represented: 8 out of 9 - I, II, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII and IX, all Continents were represented
- NF Delegates: 43
- Observers: 30
- Others: 26 (panellists, FEI Technical Committee, FEI Staff and Media)
- Total participants: 99

The Sessions

- Session 1: Veterinary concerns and studies
- Session 2: Education and responsibilities
- Session 3: Rule modifications proposals
- Session 4: National Federations' specific concerns
- Session 5: Modernising the sport

Session 1 – Veterinary concerns and studies

Global Endurance Injury Study

Dr Euan Bennet, Glasgow University

Conclusions

- ✓ Horses with 1-2 week longer rest periods between rides are less likely to become injured.
- ✓ Horses returning after FTQ outcomes are more likely to experience the same outcome again.
- ✓ Increased Mandatory Rest Periods could be an effective preventative measure.
- ✓ Introducing a link between riding speed and Mandatory Rest Periods could modify rider behaviour, reducing horses' risk of FTQ in both current and future rides.

Preventing Bone fatigue –

Prof Chris Whitton, University of Melbourne

Conclusions

- **Injury prevention**

- ✓ Endurance specific data for lameness
- ✓ Most lameness is due to cyclic loading
- ✓ Speed and distance together accumulate the cyclic loading
- ✓ Interventions that reduce cyclic loading is likely to reduce majority of injuries
- ✓ Small reduction in average speeds - positive impact on reducing bone fatigue

Most important:

- ✓ Rider/trainer education on how horse welfare and reducing injury is depending on:
 - Riding speed
 - Regularity of competition
 - Intensity of training

EquiRatings – Sam Watson, Diarmud Byrne

Conclusions

EquiRatings – presented a potential model for predicting risks in the sport

- ✓ Aimed at encouraging rider responsibility
- ✓ Possible tool for NF management/governance
- ✓ Needed to be adopted and further developed for Endurance
- ✓ The application would need clarifying:
 - NFs use
 - Riders/trainers understanding and responsibility
 - FEI regulations

Session 2 – Education and responsibilities

- Three main topics were presented:
 - Working Group recommendations for FEI Officials
 - New Education System for Endurance Officials
 - Next steps

Conclusions Session 2

- Generally welcomed and agreed that education is the key
- Concern regarding OC role in decision making in appointment of officials - impact on cost to organiser
- More info about Officials for OC - to help them make decisions on appropriate appointments
- Concern regarding new officials training system making people start again - as long as they demonstrate experience and knowledge then they would be back to where they were quickly
- Better access to information on officials was requested to help widen the pool that OCs use

Session 3 – Rule modifications proposals

- Before sending out the Endurance Rules modifications to NFs for 2018 the main topics were presented and discussed.
 - 1) Weights
 - 2) Mandatory rest periods
 - 3) New star system for events
 - 4) Horses age
 - 5) Horses Novice Qualifications

Conclusions Weights

- For CEI2* and above, for Seniors, a 75kg minimum weight were proposed

Conclusions Mandatory Rest Periods

- Based on Veterinary studies, extra 7 days for average speeds over 20kph

Conclusions New Star System

- CEI4* and CEI5* were presented during the Forum
- General support for these 'top star level events' but more thought and consultation needed into prize money and technical requirements

Conclusions Horse Age

- CEI4*, CEI5* and Championships require a 9 years old horse
- Young Horse Championship requires a 8 years old horse

Conclusions Horses Novice Qualifications

- New novice qualification proposed for horses who have successfully completed 480km distance in 36 months

Session 4 – National Federations' concerns

- To allow NFs to raise any specific concern they may have and bring it to an open audience.
- The UAE NF made a presentation informing about the actual state of Endurance in the UAE regarding:
 - Number of events
 - Number of starters
 - Work and communications between FEI and the Organising Committees
 - Strategic Plan going forward 2020

Session 5 – Modernising the sport

- 1st part
 - Brian Sheahan, Chair of Endurance Technical Committee
 - Valerie Kanavy, Member of Endurance Technical Committee
 - Nick Brooks Ward, Endurance Organiser, Hpower Group
- 2nd part
 - Stéphane Chazel, Trainer, Athlete and Member of Endurance Technical Committee
 - Ignasi Casas, Chef d'Equipe for ESP NF and Member of Endurance Technical Committee
- Different perspectives and views for the future of Endurance were presented by the FEI by an Organiser, a Trainer, a Chef d'Equipe and an Athlete to be shared and discussed.

Conclusions Session 5

- Sport needs to be relevant and exciting to engage the audience and sponsors
- Technology - Timing and GPS Tracking – using modern innovation
- Commentary – an absolute must to improve the awareness of the sport
- Live Streaming with Big Screen Coverage
- Public Viewing Points
- Information booklets about Endurance for Public – what the Vets are looking at, What the Crews are doing, response times etc.
- New innovations in competitions – Retraining of racehorses etc.
- Suggestions from the floor for FEI World Cup type competitions
- Who is the star in our sport, is it the rider, the horse or the combination? Sport is emotion, maybe Endurance is a horse sport where there is a good opportunity to make the horses the star.



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Thank you