

### Session 2 – Paris 2024 Olympic Jumping Regulations

This session consisted of the presentation from the FEI Jumping Committee of the suggested modifications to the Paris 2024 Olympic Regulations for Jumping. These proposals were presented by Stephan Ellenbruch, Chair of the Jumping Committee who was joined by Marco Fusté, FEI Jumping Director; Santiago Varela, Course Designer at the 2020 Olympic Games; Henrik Ankarcrona, Deputy Chair of the Jumping Committee and Kevin Staut, President of the International Jumping Riders Club (IJRC).

The proposals put forward to delegates in this Session are the result of a widespread consultation process which saw Athletes, Officials, National Federations, and Stakeholders with whom the FEI has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), submit key topics for review as part of an initial survey. The feedback from the survey was discussed during an online meeting held on 22 March and the main points consolidated for further deliberation at the FEI Sports Forum.

The topics of discussion including the proposals and comments received from Delegates during the Sports Forum are detailed below:

#### **Timeline for Entries**

The Chair of the Jumping Committee informed the floor that the deadlines principles that applied for Tokyo 2020 should be maintained.

He reminded the floor that these deadlines include the period for Athletes to earn points for Olympic Rankings which will be one full calendar year, from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023; MER period for Athlete and Horse Combinations, from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 until the Nominated Entries deadline in 2024; Nominated Entries which should be mid-June 2024, a few weeks prior to the Final Entries which will be a date set by the Organising Committee of the Olympic Games in July 2024.

#### **Order of Competitions (Individuals/Teams)**

Before getting into details about the competition schedule, the Chair informed all delegates of the proposal to revert to the pre-Tokyo competition order with the Team Competition held first. This proposal was widely supported by the participants who answered to the online survey in February 2022.

#### **Competition Schedule**

Stephan Ellenbruch then presented the Competition Schedule for Paris 2024. He described this schedule as being horse-friendly as the Jumping Committee worked on using all eight days available for Jumping.

As explained before, the aim is to have two separate competitions being the Team Qualifier and Team Final held before the Individual Qualifier and Final. Two Horse Inspections will be organised with the first one being mandatory for all horses (Team and Individual) and the second one open to all horses as well. Furthermore, and in order to give as much rest as possible to horses between the Team Final and the second Horse Inspection, the latter will be organised in the evening of the fifth day.

The proposed schedule presented to the delegates at the Sports Forum is as follows:

- Day 1: (first) **Horse Inspection**
- Day 2: **Horse Re-Inspection and Training Session**
- Day 3: **Team Qualifier**
- Day 4: **Team Final**
- Day 5: (second) **Horse Inspection**
- Day 6: **Horse Re-Inspection and Training Session**
- Day 7: **Individual Qualifier**



- Day 8: **Individual Final**

### **Substitution Process**

The suggestion regarding substitution process is to maintain the same principles as for Tokyo 2020.

In addition, the Jumping Committee Chair provided the floor with a few precisions. The Event begins with the first Horse Inspection, meaning that only horses stabled in the Olympic stables may be substituted for the Team Competition. The exact deadline for this substitution is still to be defined. As mentioned previously, all Horses must be presented in the first Horse Inspection. He added as a matter of clarity that Horses not accepted at the first Horse Inspection may be presented at the second Horse Inspection in order to take part in the Individual Competition.

The Chair finally added that only medical and veterinary substitutions will be allowed and will require a veterinary or medical certificate.

Belgian athlete and IJRC Board Member François Mathy JR cautioned that it will be necessary to manage the public perception of having a horse taken out of a competition one day for veterinary reasons and then allowed to compete again a few days later. Stephan Ellenbruch responded that transparency in the process and fitness to compete were the primary ingredients to ensuring the public understood and approved the process.

### **Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MER)**

Several proposals were made with regards to MERs, the first being the conditions under which MERs should be obtained. In order to obtain a Certificate of Capability, Athlete/Horse Combinations should obtain 3 results of 4 penalties or less at 1.55 m Competitions or 8 penalties or less at 1.60 m competitions. The Chair of the Jumping Committee emphasized the fact that consistency is a key factor in qualifying for such an Event and this is the main reason for taking out the concept of star levels in the obtaining of MER results and imposing 3 results for all Athletes/Horse Combinations notwithstanding the level in which the results were obtained. In this regard, Kevin Staut added that horse welfare and high-quality sport are two important topics and that, for this reason, he and the IJRC support this suggestion. Gerald Kuh (HKG) also brought up the point that there is real concern for smaller countries to qualify for the Olympic Games without the existence of special qualifying competitions. Stephan Ellenbruch acknowledged Kevin Staut's comments and added that this would allow CSI3\* Organisers to have their Grand Prix Competitions count if being at 1.55 m and that this could help countries who cannot organise CSI4\* or CSI5\* Events to host qualifiers.

The FEI Jumping Director then presented the possibility of increasing the number of FEI Wild Cards per Event for the purpose of achieving MERs. Following some comments from Eleonora Ottaviani (IJRC) and Elizabeth Chesson (US Equestrian Managing Director of Show Jumping), Marco Fusté confirmed that Athletes invited in these circumstances should be in addition to the overall quota and therefore not inside the quota places assigned through the FEI Online Invitation System.

Finally, Stephan Ellenbruch informed the floor that Special MER Qualifying Competitions will not be allowed.

### **Frist Individual Competition Format**

Following the unanimous feedback received with the surveys, the Jumping Committee Chair confirmed that the Individual Qualifier will be judged on penalties and time, emphasizing that it does not make much sense and difficult to understand to have 25 athletes equal first in an Olympic Games' Competition. He added that the change made to



the Jumping Rules with regards to the time allowed is an important factor that should also apply to the Olympic Games.

### **Other topics**

Finally, Stephan Ellenbruch informed the floor of other comments and suggestions received within the survey or during the consultation session.

The idea of introducing a maximum number of penalties during a round was supported by the Jumping Committee however it was deemed necessary to introduce this in the Jumping Rules and applied for all Competitions, not just for Olympic Games.

The suggestion of having jump-offs for all medals had also been discussed during the consultation session. The Chair informed the floor that the Jumping Committee did discuss the possibility and came to the conclusion that this could make Competitions more exciting. There were no comments from the delegates present at the Sports Forum on this proposal.

Following Tokyo 2020, there were several comments within the surveys received that there were not enough Judges at the Olympic Games. Stephan Ellenbruch acknowledged this and confirmed that the Olympic Regulations would be amended to comply with the Jumping Rules in which five Judges at such Events are mandatory (3 in the Jury Box, 1 water jump Judge and 1 liaison Judge).

Finally the Chair of the Jumping Committee informed the floor of the proposal to have normal draws to determine starting orders of Competitions, Horse Inspections and Training Sessions.

### **Stakeholder feedback**

There were no other comments from the delegates present at this session.

In summary there was a general agreement with the proposals made by the Jumping Committee and these changes will be made to the Olympic Regulations for them to comment on later this year and voted on at the 2022 FEI General Assembly on 13 November 2022.