



Session 5 – Paralympic Regulations

Presenters: Amanda Bond, Chair Para Equestrian Technical Committee
Bettina de Rham, FEI Director Dressage, Para Dressage and Vaulting

Panellists: Rodolpho Riskalla, Para Dressage Athlete
Michel Assouline, Member Para Equestrian Technical Committee
Maribel Alonso, Chair Dressage Technical Committee
Patrik Kittel, Member Dressage Technical Committee

Following stakeholder input from the FEI Para Forum in January and the Paralympic/Olympic consultation sessions, the presenters put forward proposals for the main revisions to the Paralympic Regulations. All feedback would be considered prior to the draft proposal to be published in July 2022.

Bettina de Rham and the Chair provided an overview of the topics that had been raised in the consultation process, and the proposals that the Para Equestrian Technical Committee were putting forward.

1. Timeline for Entries, Minimum Eligibility Requirements and Wildcards

Proposal: Maintain the Paris Qualification System approved at the GA 2021.

The timelines for entries, Minimum Eligibility Requirements and Wildcards had all been covered in the Qualification system that had been approved at the FEI General Assembly in November 2022. The entries timelines had been based on similar timelines as for Tokyo 2020. The participants were reminded that MERs had been raised to 64%, which was considered to be a movement forward for the development of the discipline without penalising smaller Federations. The Bipartite Application system was explained to the NFs as a sort of wildcard qualification system put in place by the IPC for filling quota. The qualification system would remain as approved at the GA.

No comments were received on these topics.

2. Competition Format

Proposal: The proposal would be to keep the format as at Tokyo 2020, with the Individual competition first, Team competition second and Freestyle last. The names of the Tests should be changed and no longer linked to the competition (individual Medal or Team Medal) and it should be ensured that the easier test is ridden first.

Ensure in the rules that just one panel of five Judges would judge all of the Team Tests whether the team tests take place in one day or two.

The competition schedule was discussed, with a proposal to ensure that all five Grades were judged by the same panel of five Judges in the Team competition, and preferably in just one day which was well received by stakeholders. The Chair explained that the competition format would be kept as in Tokyo, as the format had been well received by



competitors, the Para Dressage community and by the IPC, with very good feedback from the media. Rodolpho Riskalla gave his positive impression of the new Paralympic format with the Individual competition first, that it was fairest for all athletes to ride in the first competition.

No further comments were received.

3. Substitution Process

Proposal: Maintain substitution principles as per the Tokyo Regulations, but to review the timings with the IPC to see if one deadline could be set for Substitution 1 to replace the DRM.

The presenters recognised that the issue brought up with Substitution 1 having a different date for each NPC was difficult to understand, but that it was the same system across all sports set by the IPC. The FEI had had a call with the IPC to discuss changing this to one set date, but that did not seem to be a possibility.

No comments were received.

4. Team Test to Music

Proposal: The fairest option would be to remove the team test music option, and to have a provision in the rules for a Music provider so that all of the music was fair with a controlled volume and quality.

As with Dressage, the topic of Team test to music had come up. It had been introduced to allow Athletes to provide their own Team music, but this had not been well received and so the PETC proposed to change the rules to have a provision that the Music Provider set the music for all Athletes in the Individual and Team competitions. This was accepted by the stakeholders.

No comments were received.

5. Officials

The Chair explained that a proposal would be put forward to appoint a panel of five Judges with one travelling reserve for Paris, rather than seven Judges. The rules would keep flexibility in case seven needed to be appointed to a Games where non-travelling reserves would be less accessible. The topic of including a JSP was also put forward, but that in Para Dressage it would need to be taken into account that there were less Officials, so to consider two members or to use technology to have off site supervision.

No comments were received.

6. Music rights and Technology

Proposal: Rules would be included for the Music rights to be collected well in advance. Paperless judging (eDressage) will be used at the FEI World Championships in Herning,



and the intention is to also introduce paperless judging in Paris 2024. The necessary changes would be made to the Rules and PRIS to include this.

Music rights had caused frustrations in Tokyo, as the information was requested just before the competitions started while it had previously been deemed not necessary to send in. The Paralympic Regulations would include provisions for when and how these rights should be submitted.

E-Dressage had been widely used at CPEDIs, so the PETC proposed that the technology should be used at all subsequent Championships and Games, which would be added to the Paralympic Regulations.

No comments were received.

7. Accreditation

Stakeholders had raised the issue that NPCs were not allocated enough accreditations to cover Athletes with high support needs as well as the care necessary for the Horse. Bettina de Rham explained that this had been discussed with the IPC, and a system of wristbands would be looked into to increase FoP access, but that also the FEI would request more accreditation allowances for Athletes with high support needs. The National Federations should also lobby their NPCs with what was required in Para Dressage.

No comments were received.

8. Draw for the starting order

Proposal: The Belgian NF had proposed to review the Draw for the starting order of the Individual competition, to split each Grade into groups of three Athletes based on the World Ranking. The PETC were concerned that this would disadvantage athletes who were not able to compete often and were ranked lower.

The panellists were divided on this matter, and Patrik Kittel suggested that splitting in two groups may work better due to some Grades having very few participants. The Dutch NF commented that Para Dressage should strive to align with Dressage unless there was a real reason not to. These comments would be reviewed by the PETC.

9. Order of the Horse Inspection

Proposal: The proposal, as in Dressage, was put forward that the Horse Inspection order should be decided by a Draw of National Federations rather than in alphabetical order.

No further comments were received.