



FEI[™]

DRIVING

Championships survey – October 2023

FEI Driving Championship Survey

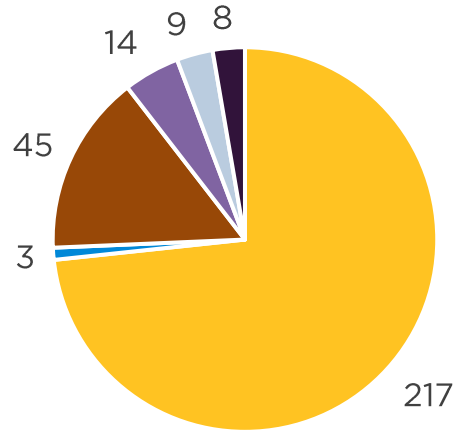
The FEI Driving Technical Committee is set to conduct a thorough review of the FEI Driving Championship format, aiming to introduce changes in 2026, in accordance with the Full Rules Revision scheduled for 2025.

In order to ensure that the FEI Driving Championships continue to reflect the evolving needs and aspirations of our community, the FEI has conducted a Survey from 05 September to 10 October 2023. A total of 296 responded, and included FEI Athletes, National Federations, FEI Trainers, FEI Officials, FEI Support Personnel and FEI Organisers.

Key Subjects of the Survey

- 1. Combined Championships Possibility:**
 - Combining championships for Horse Singles (H1) and Pony Singles (P1), Horse Pairs (H2) and Pony Pairs (P2), as well as Horse Fours (H4) and Pony Fours (P4), and Para Driving.
- 2. Continental Championships and World Championship:**
 - Introduction of Senior Continental Championships and a World Championship in all driving classes, fostering global development and competition.
- 3. Championships for Young Horses & Ponies:**
 - Championships tailored to Young Horses and Ponies, promoting talent development.
- 4. Split Pony Championships:**
 - Creating distinct categories within Pony Championships classes to enhance competition quality and fairness.
- 5. Different format:**
 - Creating a two-day event format, comprising "Dressage/Cones" and Marathon, and its potential impact on the sport.

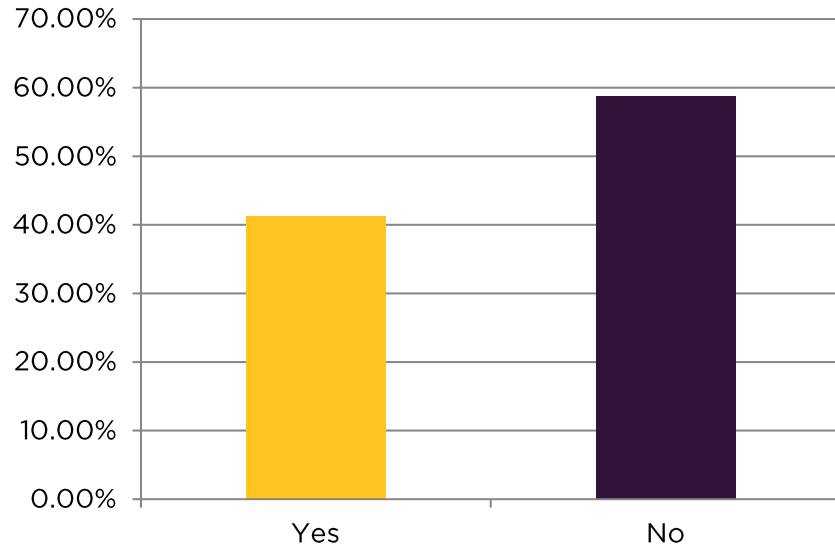
Profile of respondents



- National Federation respondents included Luxembourg, Sweden, Hungary, Great Britain, Australia, USA, Finland and the Netherlands

Question 1

- Should H1 & P1/H2 & P2/H4 & P4 Championships be combined into a single championship held concurrently at a single location with 2 classes?



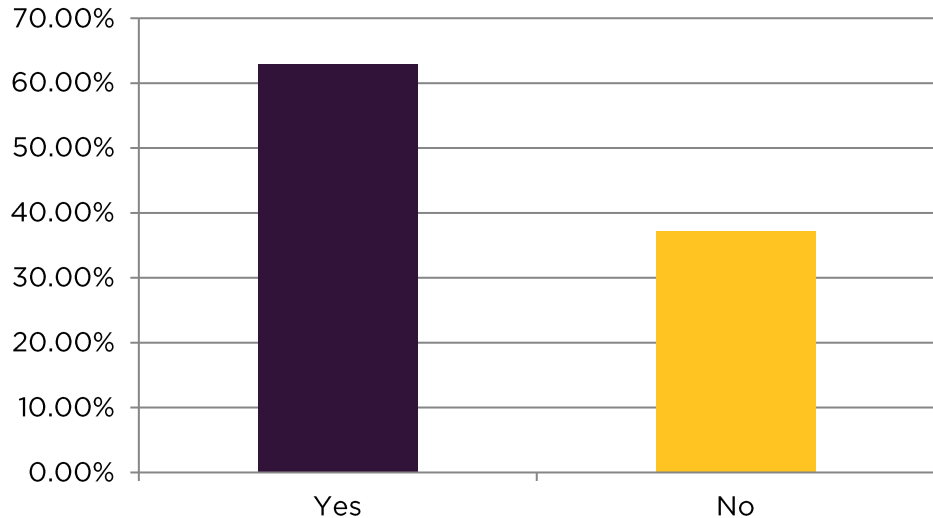
- 62% of the National Federations were in favour of combining the two Championships
- 51% of the Athletes were not in favour of combining the two championships
- 60% of the Official were not in favour of combining the two Championships
- 56% of the Organisers were in favour of combining the two Championships

Question 1 (cont.)

- The responses for all classes were similar.
- In summary, opinions on combining horse and pony championships vary. Some express concerns about class size, logistics, atmosphere, and difficulty, while others emphasize benefits such as resource efficiency and enhanced opportunities for ponies. However, the prevailing sentiment leans towards maintaining separate horse and pony championships, recognizing the distinct challenges each class presents. There is a willingness to consider combining less popular classes for practical reasons, but with a strong emphasis on preserving the integrity of the competitions.

Question 2

- Should the Para Driving Championship be combined with the Single Championships?



- 62% of respondents were in favour of combining the single and para driving championship.
1. **Combination Preferences:**
 1. Diverse opinions on combining Para Driving Championships.
 2. Suggestions for combining with Single Horse (H1), Horse 4 (H4), or other combined events.
 2. **Concerns and Considerations:**
 1. Concerns about logistics, safety, and meeting the unique needs of para athletes.
 2. Positive views on combining with H4 due to suitable obstacles and increased visibility.
 3. Advocacy for treating Para Driving with equal consideration, addressing specific needs, and providing accessible podiums.

Question 2 (cont.)

3. Mixed Opinions on Singles:

1. Mixed opinions on combining with Singles; some feel it should be with less populated classes.

4. Visibility and Solutions:

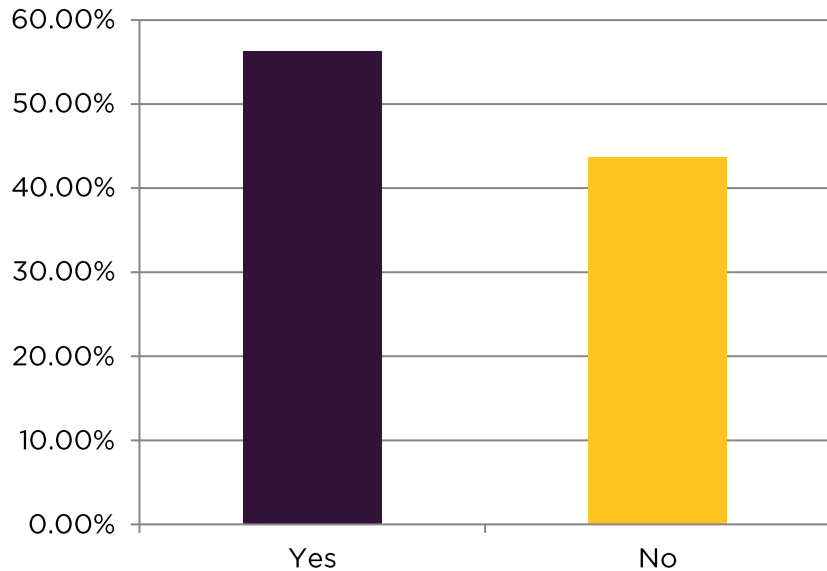
1. Views on combining with European 4 championships as a good solution for visibility.
2. Challenges in building courses for both classes, but potential cost and logistic benefits of combined events.

5. Flexibility and Cooperation:

1. Suggestions for flexibility and cooperation with other events to promote Para Driving.
2. Acknowledgment of the current small size of Para classes and the need for strategic combinations for growth

Question 3

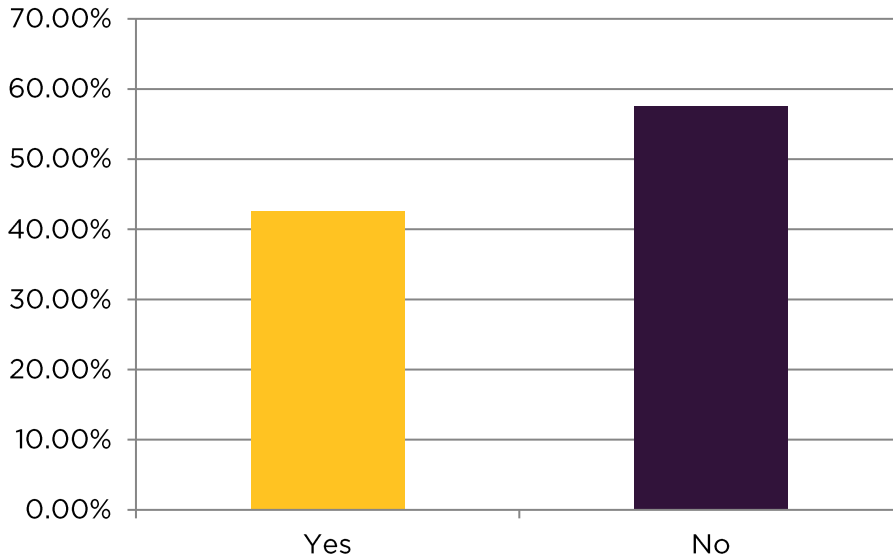
- Should the Para Driving Championship be combined to another class?



- The responses pointed to combining the single horse championship with the Para Driving Championship.
- Respondents that answered no mentioned factors such as safety concerns, commercial considerations, and the distinctive requirements of para athletes.

Question 4

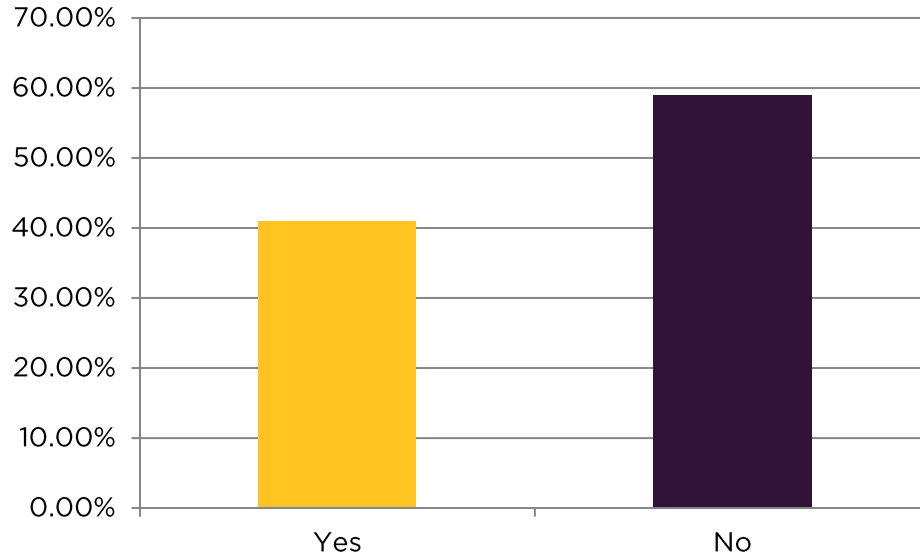
- Do you support the idea of having H1 & P1 Championships be held on back-to-back weeks at a single location?



- The responses for questions 6 and 7 all pointed towards not organising the Championships back-to-back.
- In summary, the comments mentioned various concerns related to logistics, ground conditions, and potential impacts on the quality of the competition and experience for participants and spectators.

Question 5

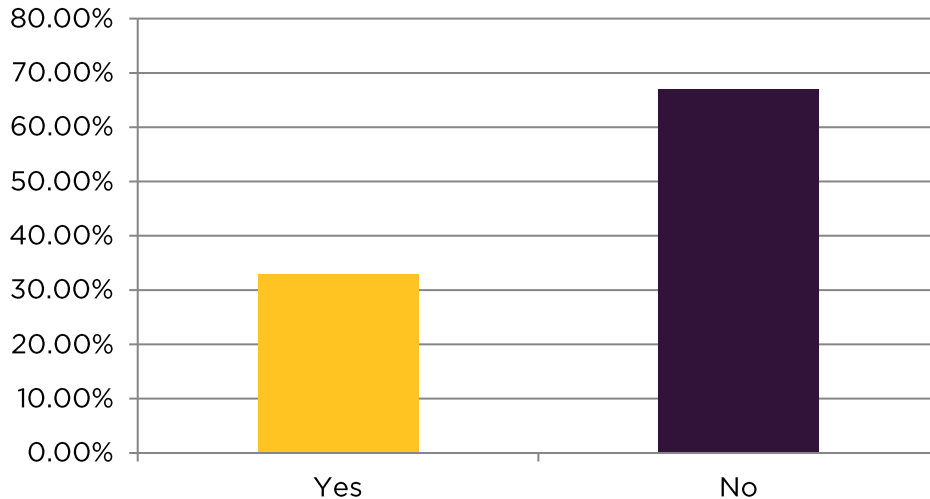
- Do you support the idea of having H2 & P2 Championships be held on back-to-back weeks at a single location?



- The responses for questions 6, 7 and all 8 all pointed towards not organising the Championships back-to-back.
- The written answers mentioned a mix of logistical challenges, concerns about weather impact, and varying opinions on the feasibility and benefits of combining pony and horse championships.

Question 6

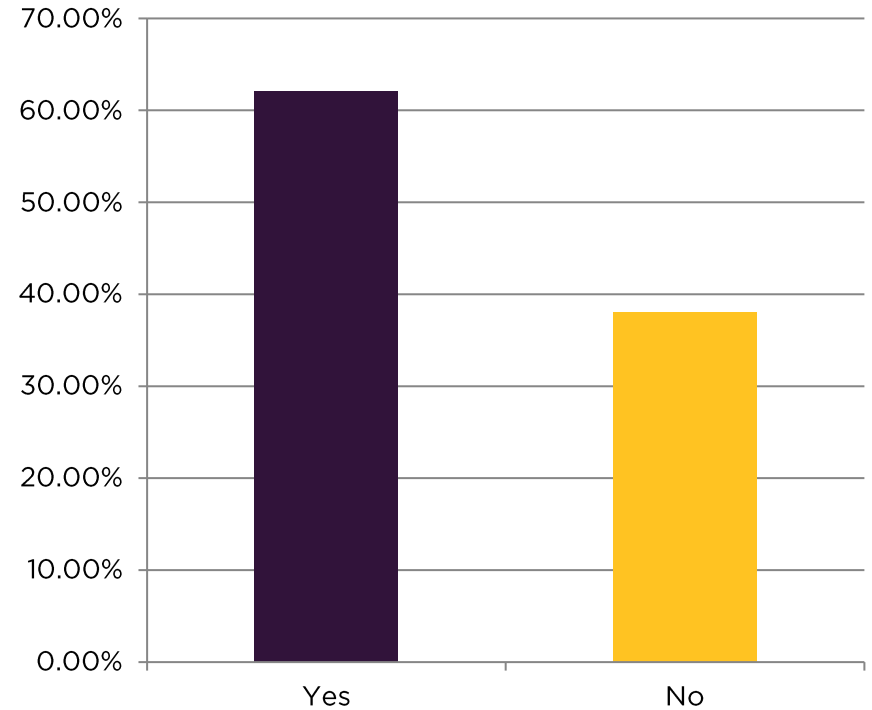
- Is there a need for splitting current Pony Championships to have one separate Championship for each class?



- Mixed Opinions: some supporting combining pony classes for increased opportunities, while others value the unique identity and success of the current format.
- Concerns About Entry Numbers: Concerns about the number of pony competitors and the potential impact on expenses and standards.
- Appreciation for the Current System: Emphasizing the success, sense of community, and support among pony drivers.

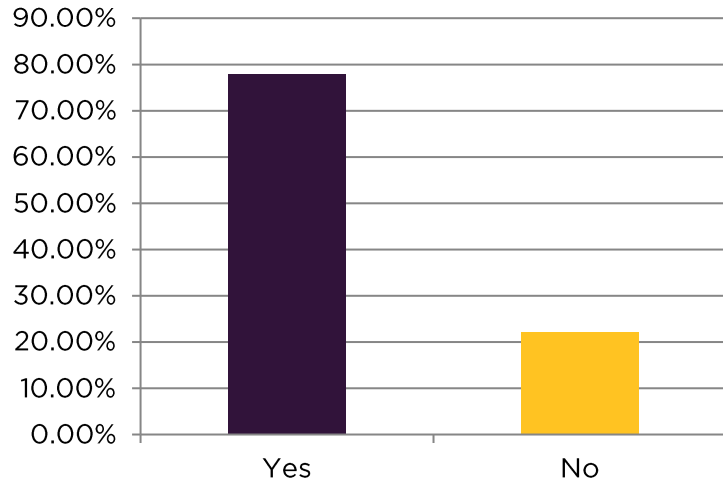
Question 7

- Should there be Senior Continental Championships and a World Championship held for all driving classes (H1, P1, H2, P2, H4, P4), meaning Continental Championships in year one and World Championship in year two and again Continental Championships in year three and World Championship in year four?



Question 8

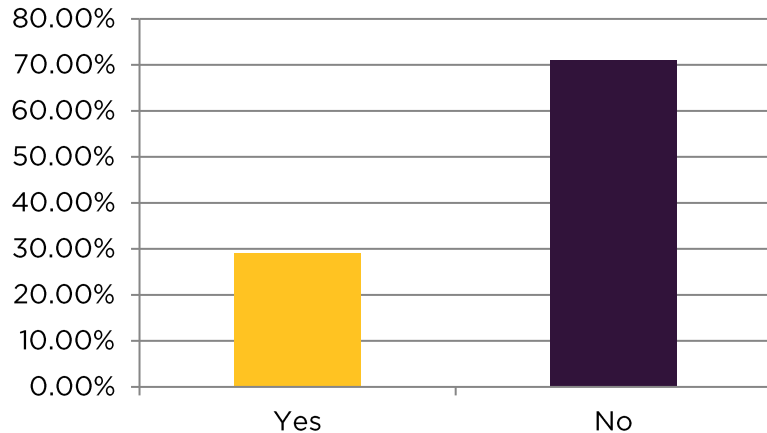
- Should Ponies be included into the Championships for Young Horses, becoming Championships for Young Horses & Ponies in the driving discipline?



- Diverse Opinions:** Responses are varied, with many expressing positive views about integrating pony driving in championships, while others raise concerns or suggest specific conditions for successful integration.
- Recognition of Pony Significance:** There is a general recognition of the significance of ponies in driving, and many respondents advocate for equal treatment and opportunities for both horses and ponies.

Question 9

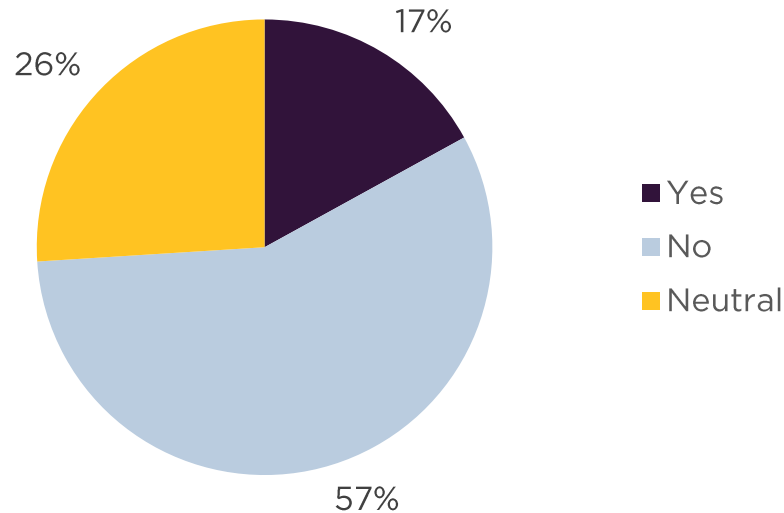
- Should a new format be considered for the Young Horses Championships?



- Most respondents were content with the current format.
- Other propose changes to better prepare young horses for senior championships. The issues discussed include age groups, obstacle complexity, frequency of championships, and the importance of the marathon event.

Question 10

- Modification of the Championships format two-day event comprising a "Dressage/Cones" competition and a Marathon competition.



Question 10 (cont.)

- Modification of the Championships to a two-day event
- Positive responses:
 1. "Such a format could significantly reduce costs and effort for participants and organizers."
 2. "Splitting events over three separate days is preferred."
 3. "Works well in the UK, according to respondents."
 4. "Some appreciate the potential benefits for using a third horse."

Question 10 (cont.)

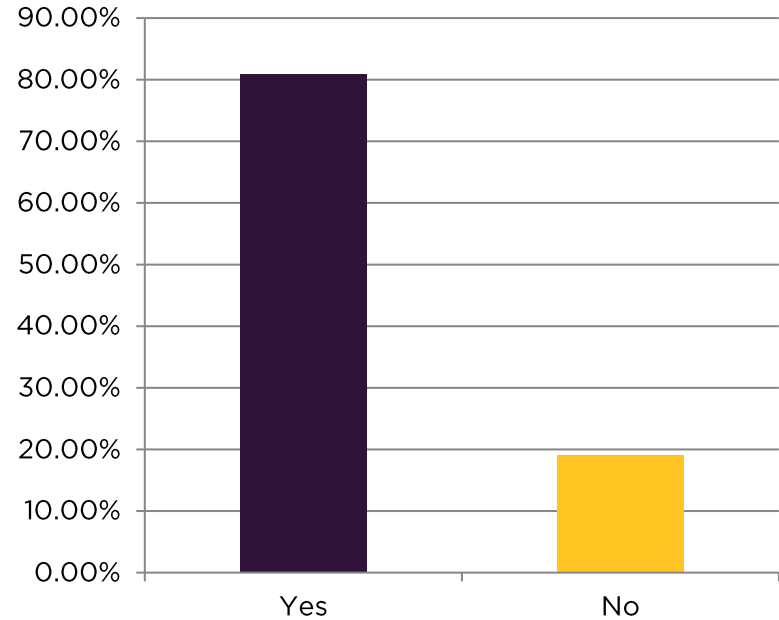
- Modification of the Championships to a two-day event
- Negative responses:
 1. "Not favourable for championships; don't shorten to 2 days."
 2. "Struggle to comprehend why this proposal is up for discussion."
 3. "Not good for horses; don't change the system."
 4. "Against scheduling dressage and cones on the same day, due to potential negative effects on the sport and horse health."

Question 10 (cont.)

- Modification of the Championships to a two-day event
- Neutral responses:
 1. "Could be used for 2* but not 3* or championships."
 2. "Option for smaller competitions; may be difficult for larger events."
 3. "Interesting format for shows without enough space; challenges for championship qualification."

Question 11

- Do you think there is a need for additional individual entries, in addition to the national team drivers?



Final thoughts for the respondents

1. FEI Driving Ranking for Championship Selection:

1. Proposal to involve the FEI Driving Ranking for selecting 20-40 drivers for championships, ensuring high quality.
2. Positive sentiment towards the current championship format, especially for Pony championships.

2. Championships for Young Ponies:

1. Strong support for introducing championships for young ponies after a decade of anticipation.

Final thoughts from the respondents

3. Veterinary inspections

1. Suggestions for vet checks on the day of dressage or during the dressage test.
2. Suggestion of a First In-Harness Horse Inspection

4. Draw System for Championships:

1. Critique of the current draw system for championships, proposing a fairer approach, like a randomized draw to increase interest.

Final thoughts from the respondents

5. Frequency of Championships:

1. Concerns about too many championships every three years or combining single and pair horse events.

6. Additional Entries and Individual Participation:

1. Support for additional individual entries in World Championships based on World Rankings.
2. Suggestions for allowing individuals to enter championships, especially in nations with no full teams.

Final thoughts from the respondents

7. Championship Format and Live Streaming:

1. Resistance to changing championships to a two-day format.
2. Advocacy for live streaming of all World Championships for global accessibility.
3. Improvement of Media Coverage and Financial Support

8. Financial Considerations:

1. Consideration for financial aspects, especially for countries using air transport for equines.
2. Proposal to host the Championship in the US every 10 years to accommodate participants from distant locations.

Final thoughts from the respondents

9. General Satisfaction and Criticisms:

1. Mixed sentiments about administrative burdens, organizational aspects, and suggestions for improvement.
2. Varying opinions on the current state of the sport and the need for change.



THANK YOU