



UAEERF

اتحاد الإمارات للفروسية والسباق
UAE Equestrian and Racing Federation



FEITM

**ENDURANCE
FORUM**

7-8 April 2018
Dubai

FEI Endurance Forum



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Why we are here today?

FEI • NFs • (OCs) • Officials • Riders • Trainers • Media





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**All of us have
different views
on the rules?**





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But all we agree that...

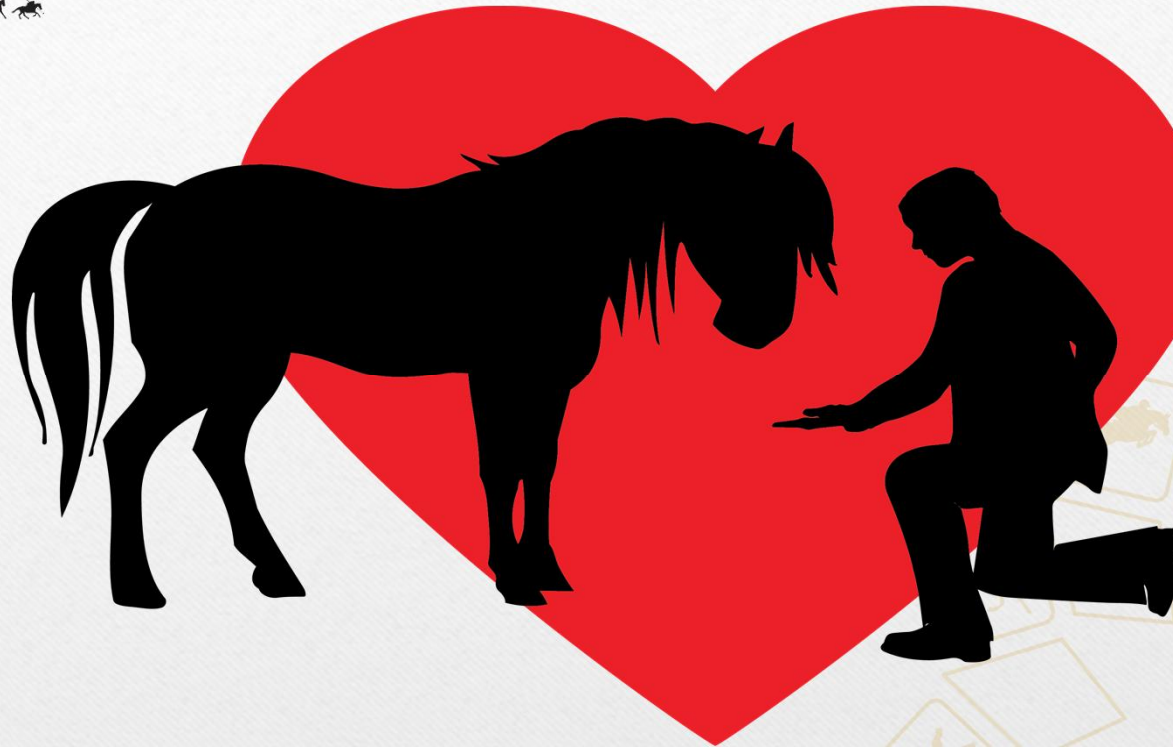




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**The Horse Welfare
is Paramount**

The **United Arab Emirates** contributed to the development and the promotion of the sport around the world.

Promoting the sport using:

- Mobile application, Live TV coverage
- Offer chance to high number of athletes around the world to ride and qualify in UAE to represent their country in big international events (67 Nationalities participating in UAE).



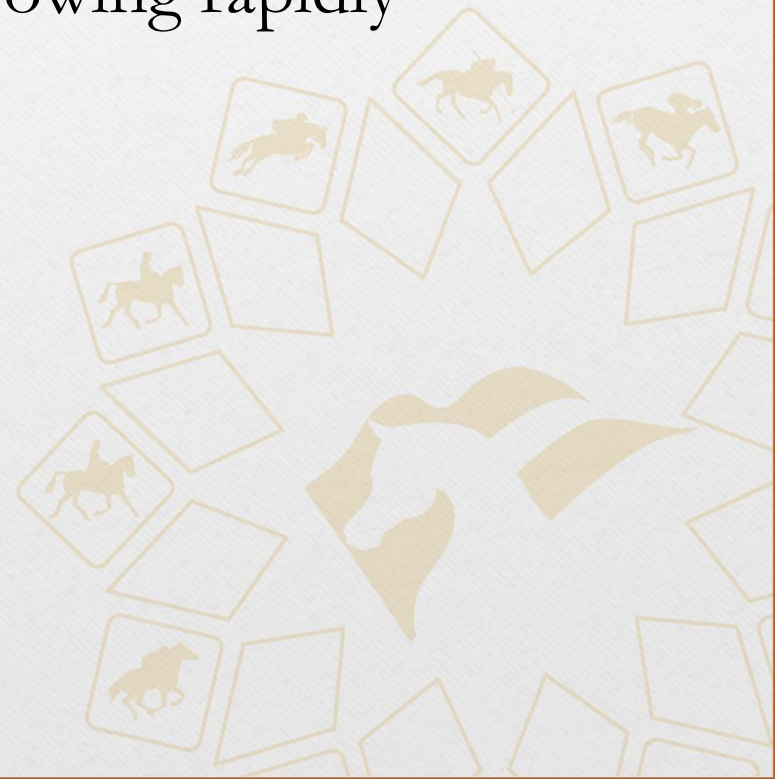
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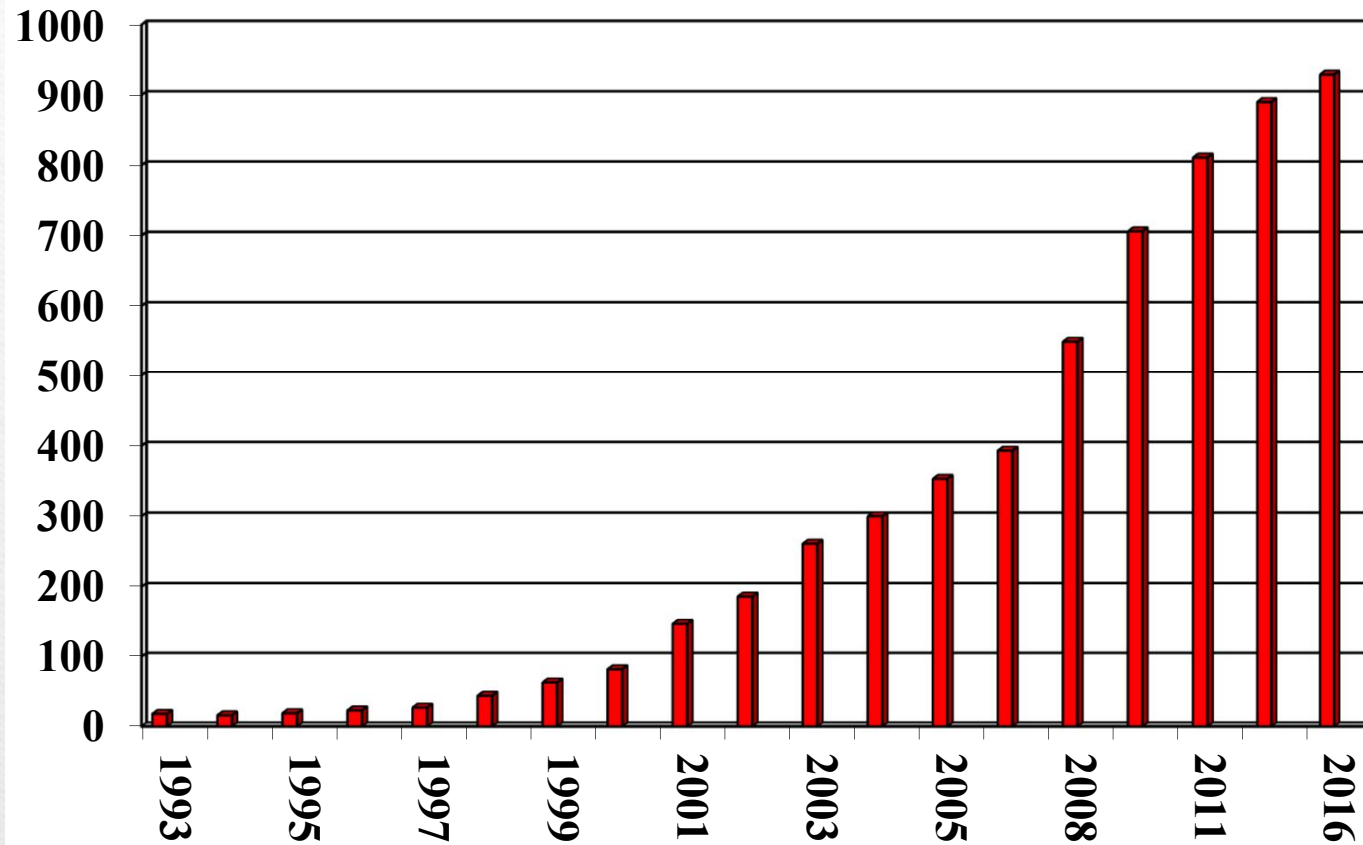
Endurance Sport is growing worldwide

- The Endurance sport is growing rapidly (as statistics show):

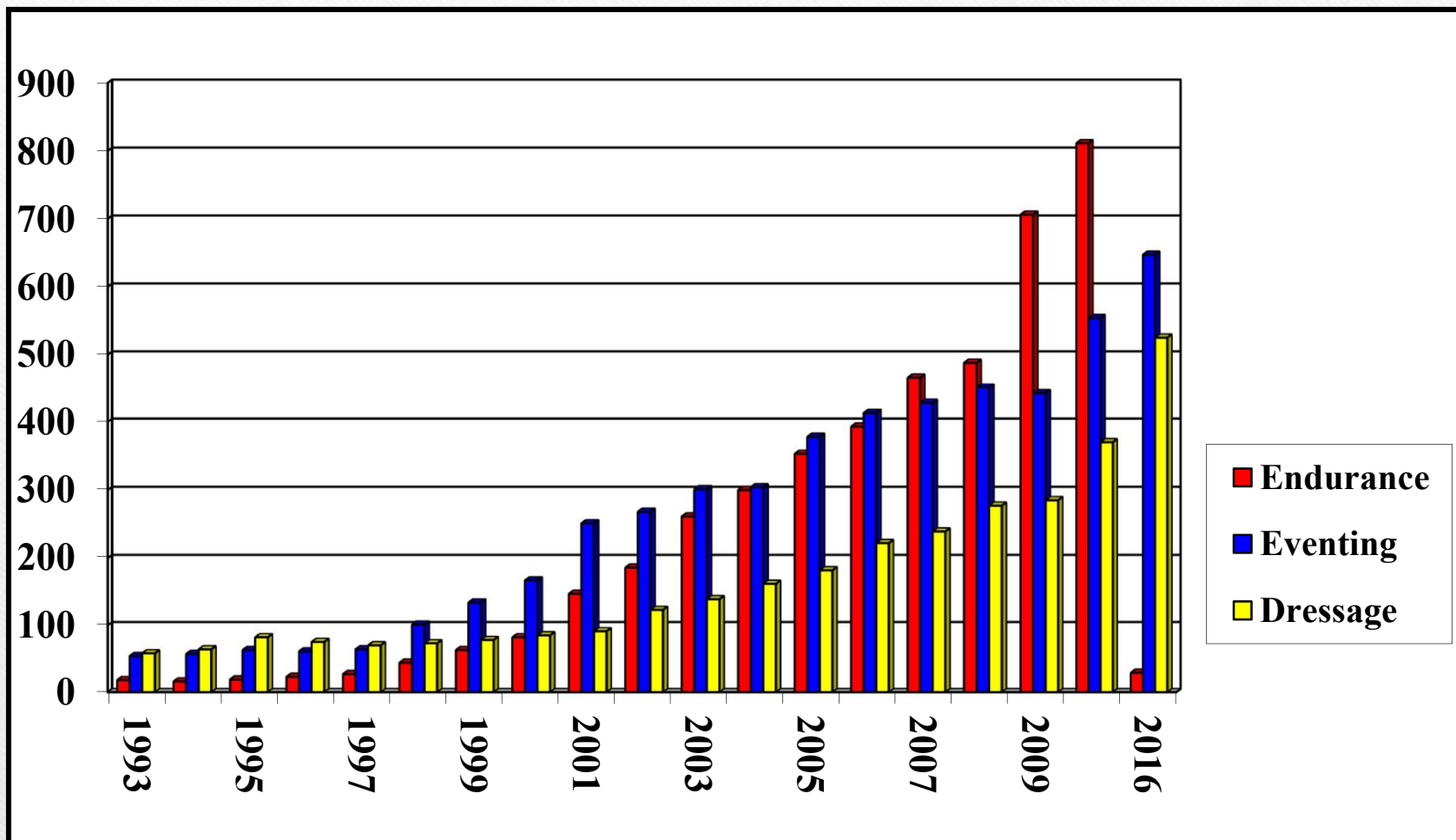


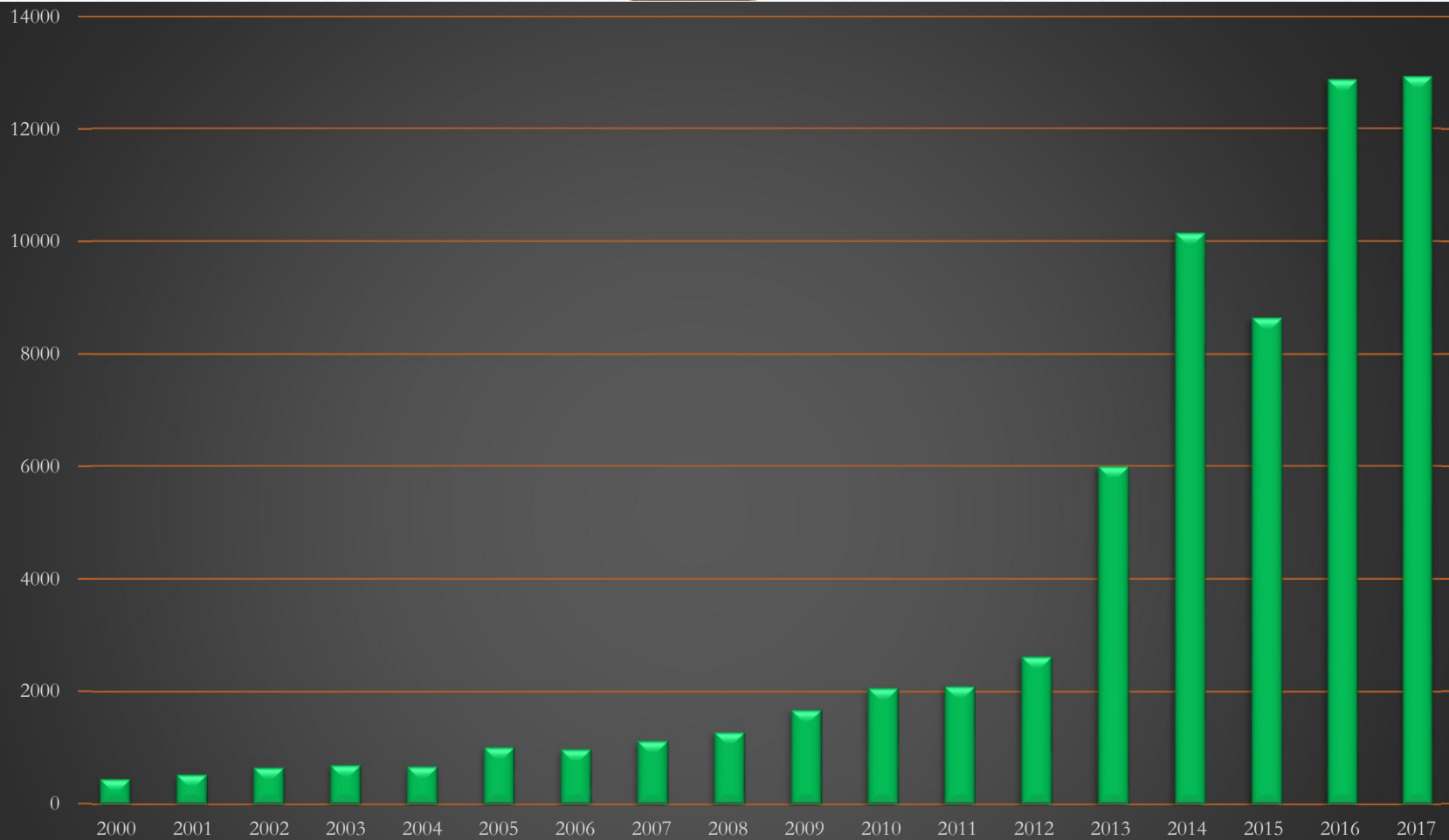
- **With the increasing growth of the sport :**
 - The Sport became more professional,
 - The Sport can no longer be only fun
 - The Sport industry create numerous job opportunities for Equestrian community (managers, Athletes, Trainers , Veterinarians, grooms, Equestrian equipment suppliers, Media , etc....)
 - New Technology used
 - Media
 - This growth create challenges and opportunities.

Development of FEI Endurance 1993 - 2016

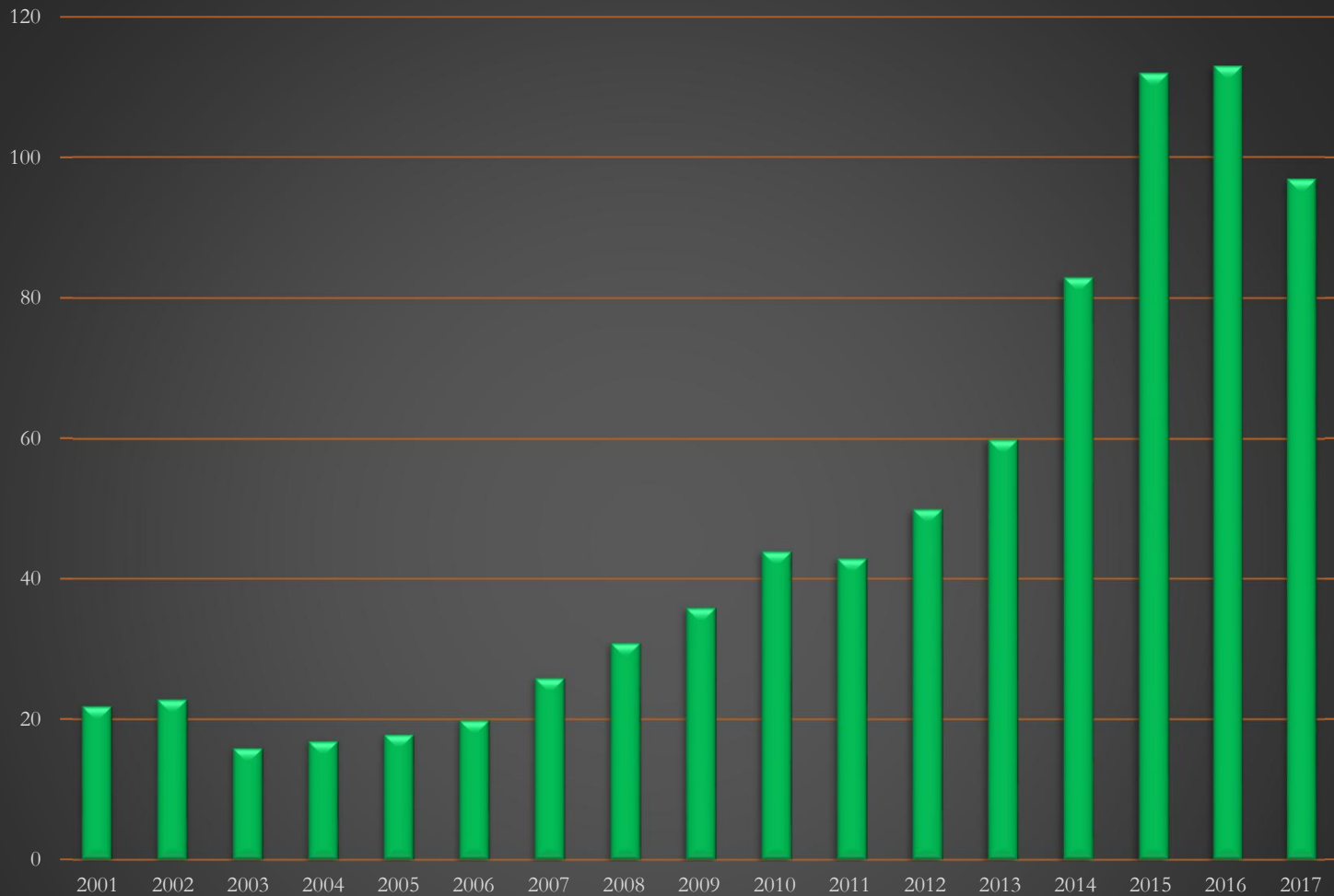


Development of FEI Endurance competitions compared to Eventing and Dressage 1993 - 2016

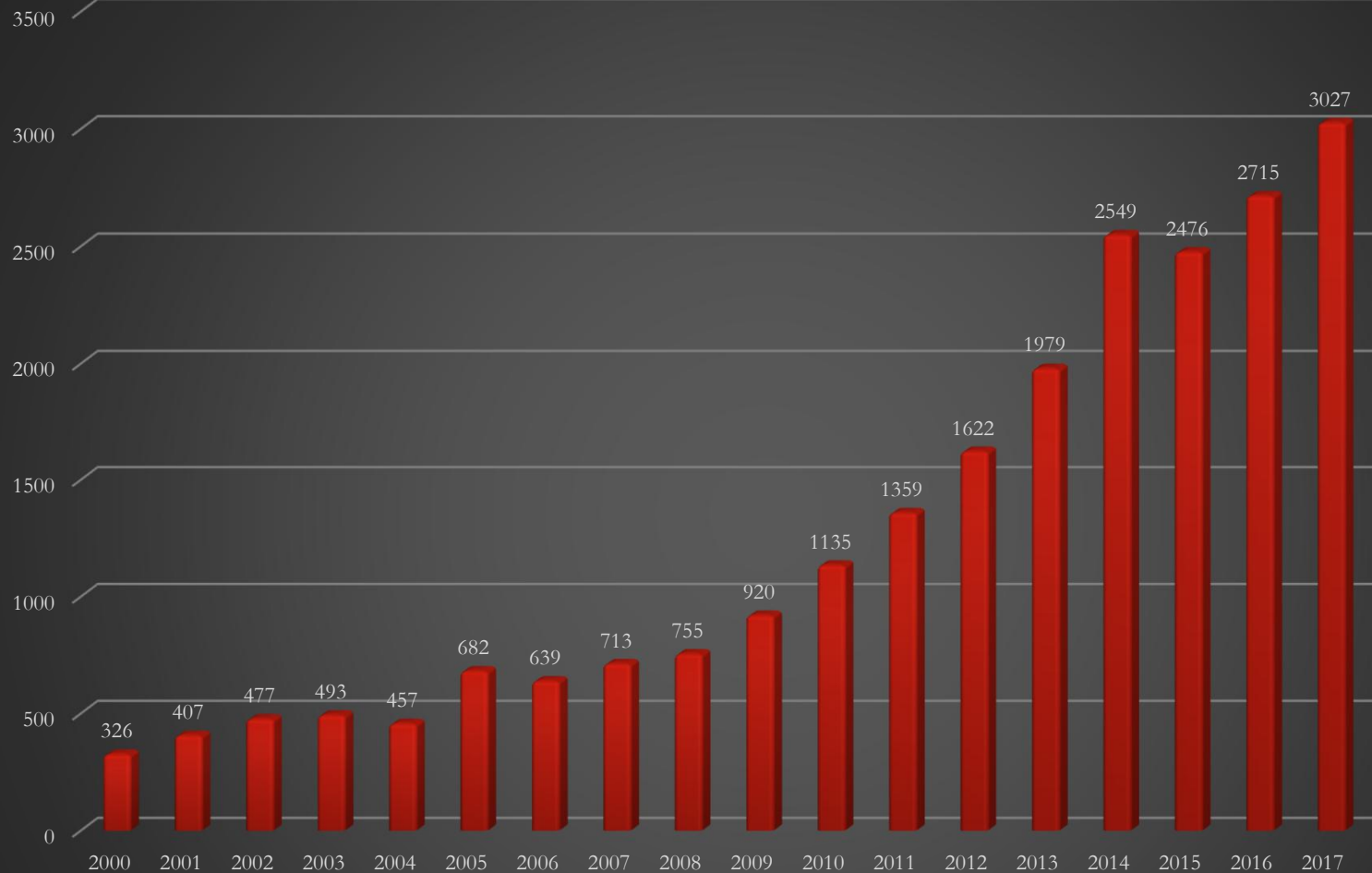




Development of UAEERF Endurance 2000 – 2017 Number of Starters



Development of UAEERF Endurance 2000 – 2017
Number of Events



Development of UAEERF Endurance 2000 – 2017
Number of Athletes

Risk Management Approach

Increase in growth  Risk is expected to increase

- Identify Risks :Example Injuries, CIs, doping, lack of awareness & knowledge, no proper licensing
- based on the outcomes :

Short terms actions were implemented to reduce the risks to acceptable levels:

- 1- Training and awareness
2. National Rules were modified such as sanctions, National rides follow same FEI rules.
3. All rules were computerized in order to respect the horse age, qualifications, rest period etc...

UAEERF Education Programs 2017

	Education Programs	Number of Participants
1	Trainers & Athletes	2008
2	Judges Courses level I & II	40
3	Stewards course	150
4	Testing course	15
5	Veterinarian course	25
	FEI Course for Endurance	
6	Coaches Level 1	18
	Total	2251

Risk Management Approach

Long term plans:

- 1- UAEERF started to conduct studies with EquiRatings' (recommended by FEI) to assist us identify the Risk factors to have better quality Management
- 2- Continue with education Training programs in cooperation with the FEI.
- 3- Adoption of recognized institutes and schools to train the athletes with the principle of riding, this will be pre-requirement for giving the license for the athletes to start their competing careers.
- 4- Developing the legislations of stables, riding schools, clubs.

FEI Endurance Conference

- The UAE Equestrian federation to work closely with the FEI and other Federations & Stakeholders to develop strategy for sustainable future of the Endurance worldwide.
- Experience & studies.



FEI Endurance Conference

- Based on previous studies conducted at the UAE Equestrian & Racing Federation and through the Risk Management we found that many of the injuries that occur during the events are due to some existing rules allow the horses to participate in events.

- many of the injuries that occur during the events are due to some existing rules allowing unfit horse to participate in events (high percentage) .
- As development of the sport, tow main group of horse appeared:
 - A- High performing horses; the rules should not restricted them continuing their high performance
 - B- Low performing horses (less fit, in long rest period): the current rules allow them to compete against group A.

Further studies were needed to identify the risk factors and manage it, therefor UAEERF with the recommendation of the FEI appointed EquiRatings' to look into the events data for 8 years



Based in our findings, experience & EquiRatings' studies some rules need to be modified and developed in order to keep the growth of the sport without placing limitations on top performance , keeping in mind the welfare of the horse

Example

- 1. Rider weight:** most of the riders are in light weight as this sport became more professional, adding extra unnecessary artificial weight may compromise the welfare of the horses specially results of events with light weight (junior & young riders & ladies) didn't show any difference in speed or injuries.

2- Rest period:

- The biggest finding from the analysis is that every horse is competing with different levels of risk. It is not possible to simply wave a magic wand. Everybody wants to make it simple and say "Speed is the problem" but the data shows the opposite
- While research shows that speed is undoubtedly a risk factor, a finding that we do not dispute in any way, the reality in the sport is that horses with faster completion rates have higher qualification rates in their next competition, This is simply because those capable of producing high levels of performance are more likely to be successful in future competitions

- Horses with faster completion speeds have higher qualification rates in their next competition
- Horses with poor performance in past competitions have low qualification rates in future competitions
- Horses with more than 365 days between competitions have the lowest qualification rate (When assessing rest periods for horses, the most significant increase in risk to horse welfare are those horses who have not competed within the last 365 days)

3- Definition of person responsible: based in our studies and findings test results number of positive cases; is not accepted by UAE, this issue was raised several time to sanctions the right person responsible (the trainer & veterinarian), also as of Article 800 the trainer he is in charge of training the horse of the preparation of the Horse both physically and mentally for Competition.

4- The New star rating : we are supporting the development & promotion of the sport, and the New star rating but we recommended for the 5* & 4* events the following:

- The officials for the to be selected from the FEI list and appointed by the OC, in consultation with FEI
- The FEI should standardize the technical layout of the venue where the 5* & 4* will be organized and set the dimensions of vet gate, rest area, crowing area, clinic and The TD shall visit the venue for the approval and ensure that all the technical condition is met

- The OC must have successfully organized in recent 2 years at least 6 events; two CEI*, two CEI 2* and two CEI 3* events
- CEIs 5* cannot clash with other CEI5*, CEIOs 5* within the Same FEI Group
- The dates of all CEI5* & CEIO5* Events shall be approved by FEI 6 months prior as the period of two years is very long and may affect the sponsors. Since the approval for CEI *3 three month prior the event

- Article 816.1.4 : For Horses 8 years old and above who have accumulated a minimum of 480km of 80km distance events or higher.

Keep the current rule; while considering dispensation accept the rides completed at the age of 6 and 7 years for qualification if at least one of the ride is done at the age of 8 years, if these rides organized under rules similar to FEI rules this will encourage the NFs to apply similar rules to FEI so will have positive impact on horse welfare

- Article 816.1.2. : For Athletes who have accumulated a minimum of 480km of 80km distance events or higher.
- Suggestion keep the current rule
Athletes who have accumulated a minimum of 240 km in a maximum of three events of 80km or higher in a 36 months period, can be granted an exemption of art. 816.1.3.

Recommendations

In order to maintain the growth and development of the sport:

- 1- Develop long-term strategic plans and rules changes should be based on field scientific researches rather than reactions
- 2- Rules changing should be based on three objectives:
 - **Protect** - To protect the welfare of the horse.
 - **Enhance** - To enhance fair play.
 - **Provide** - To provide opportunities to achieve the highest performance (without placing limitations on top performance while reducing the risk.)

Example of these Rules :

- Weight
- Rest period
- Horse Age
- New Star Rating

3- Marketing the sport to Encourage the sponsorship.

4- Change the public preceptive of Endurance.

5- Attract More spectators.

6- Build Task Forces to work on the development of sport