

Summary of recommendations of the Eventing Committee, Paris (FRA), 4-5 October 2008 16/10/2008

The Eventing Committee met in Paris on the 4-5 October to finalize the proposals for the 2009 Rules revision, review the Safety Program and the general issues of Eventing for 2009. The following issues were discussed and will be proposed for decision to the FEI Bureau and the General Assembly in November 2008 in Buenos Aires.

1. Eventing Safety Program:

The Safety Program is based on one objective: reduction of number of horse falls. The 2001 Hartington report conclusions is the line through this program. The Safety Committee reports back to the Eventing Committee on progress.

The structure of the program includes

- a. Monitoring of the sport - Data gathering
 - b. Research: cross country fences safety devices/ rider protection
 - c. training / education
- **FEI Eventing Safety Database** is integrated in the overall FEI IT program and the new system will be active by beginning November 2008. The progress will allow an improved annual audit of the Safety data with a more flexible and practical system. The statistics are essential to Monitor the safety aspects of sport, improve knowledge of trends worldwide, and understand fall mechanisms, communication and transparency of sport.

The introduction of a NF appointed National Safety Officer in 2008 for all NFs organizing Eventing – acting as liaison person with the FEI and between NFs in regard to falls or riders will help to provide the necessary information to the FEI.
Introduction of a watch system of riders with dangerous riding and falls is being developed for 2009, together with a Medical release form.
 - **Research:** the Committee is proposing use of deformable structure/frangible technology at all events as of 1 January 2009 to encourage creativity and adjust the technology after a trial period. The situation to be reviewed at the end of 2009.
 - **Rules:** Elimination of the Athlete if breaking a frangible pin or breakable fence on XC is proposed.
 - **Training & Education:** The Education of Officials is currently being reviewed to include a greater part on safety. Riders and trainers education systems for Cross Country is being developed. Course Directors courses and education material has been developed specifically for Safety.
 - **Licensing of rider:** It is suggested that from 2010 onwards all 4* riders are licensed. It should be started at this level to then enforce to the lower levels. The license would be given by the NFs and FEI and would entail i.e.: watch system, yellow card, medical information. (the license could be lost in case of dangerous riding or penalties, etc)

- **Eventing Safety Forum for NSOs** will be organized on 23-25 January 2009
– details will follow shortly

2. Education of Officials

The Eventing Committee is working with Headquarters on an integrated Education system to apply to all disciplines with different levels. However this will take into account the specificities of the different disciplines. The system will include an ongoing evaluation and external verification of procedures.

A practical documents is being developed with the International Eventing Officials Club including the recruitment of new officials, Mentor scheme and education material.

3. HSBC Sponsorship:

HSBC FEI World Cup™ Eventing: FEI World Cup TM rules / calendar to be proposed:

- Rule system to line up with World Rider ranking points
- CCI4* points will be given for the final for CIC3-W. CCI3* points for qualifiers.
- Possibility for Qualifiers to organize CIC3* along the World Cup Qualifier under certain conditions
- Qualifiers to be organized up to 2 weeks before final (instead of 4 weeks)
- Quota reduced to 2 riders for group 4 for the Final
- Only riders that have complete a qualifier will be eligible to participate in the World Cup Final

HSBC FEI World Rider Rankings The Committee proposes to update the World Riders Rankings point system to take into account the number of starters at the event. The placed riders (Top 25%) will now receive full points according to scale per level. The principle remains that all riders having completed with a Qualifying result an event is awarded points, however on a lower scale.

4. 2009 Rules for Eventing –Revision GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The following is a summary of the main rule proposed by the Eventing Committee to the General Assembly based out on the many comments were received by NFs and different parties on the 1st draft sent to NFs for comments in April 2008.

- **Introduction of 5 star category:** upgrading of the 4 existing categories up one level/ one star but the introduction of the new 1star to line up with other disciplines. Further to concern raised by NFs that the safety review/rules need first to be in place before introduction of this change, the committee has postponed this proposal until 2010 to ensure a successful implementation of the new 1 star, allowed more time to develop conditions by end 2009 for

introduction in 2010. A procedure be put in place for existing 4 star events to bid for the 5 star status during 2009 according to evaluation criteria

- **Qualifications:** Qualification results as of 1 January 2009 at international events to consist of clear rounds (no jumping penalties);. Exceeding of the optimum time to be changed for CIC3* from 90 sec to 120 sec. No further changes to the qualification system was made on request of NFs.
- **Scoring - Dressage – time penalty on XC:** In regard to the proposal to deleting the dressage coefficient and 0.5 time penalties/per second (instead 0.4) for exceeding time on the XC – the committee proposed to maintain current scoring system as no NF has provide any support for this proposed modification.
- **Five members per team for all FEI Championships, proposed by GER NF and supported by GBR NF:** Proposal to line-up Entries for all Championships with Olympic system, 5 members per team with minimum 3 results to count – this would imply that no more individuals will be entered per nation (except for host nation for continental championships). The Committee decided to postpone this proposal until all NFs have possibility to comment on rule change.
- **Steeplechase:** Further to the comments received from NFs, the Committee proposes to delete all reference to Steeplechase in the rules. Should an NF wish to organise events with Phase A,B,C these should be regulated under national regulations (Note: in 2009, 3 events with Steeplechase are organised at one star level in the USA).
- **Cross Country Safety - Deformable structures:** The Committee is encouraging use of deformable structure/frangible technology at all events as of 1 January 2009. All such fences will need to be approved by the Technical Delegate and the President of the Ground Jury. Such fences will be identified by a marker to the riders. The situation to be reviewed at the end of 2009. The reason is to encourage creativity and adjust the technology after a trial period. Should a frangible or deformable structure be broken during the Cross Country the rider will be eliminated.
- **Efforts related to distance (intensity of effort):** The Committee are proposing the recommendation of the one effort every 110 meters on CIC Cross Country (before 1 effort per 100m) For CCIs the Committee strongly agreed the current intensity of effort was too high at the higher level, and approx one effort every 145 meters is recommended.
- **Integration of CCI & CIC One sport discussion:** Integration only refers to the Cross Country test is in question (Dressage & Jumping are already same for both categories). A working group has been created for a proposal to be formulated by February 2009 so it can be distributed to NFs for comments.
- **Horse Inspections:** Introduction of formal Horse inspections for all Events/categories in Eventing as for other FEI disciplines. This decision is based on the necessity to ensure that the Passports / Vaccinations check and horse fitness review are standardized at FEI competitions.
- **Officials Education:** The requirements for the Eventing Officials promotion have been reviewed to line up with the standards required of the International sport.

- **Jumping Test:** Technical requirements have been lined up with the Rules for Jumping (e.g. Arena vs. distances, width of fences etc)
- **Yellow cards:** Further to the Spring Meeting in Interlaken, all FEI Technical Committees agreed to the following regarding yellow warning cards, and the below will be proposed to the 2008 General Assembly for the General Regulations:

RG Art 169 - 7.1. In cases of offences mentioned in paragraphs 6.2 and 6.3 above and which are of a less serious nature, the President of the Ground Jury, the President of the Appeal Committee and the Chief Steward, instead of instituting the procedures foreseen in the legal system, may deliver to the Person Responsible a yellow warning card, either by hand or by any other suitable means.

*7.2. Should the same Person Responsible receive one more **yellow** warning card at the same or any other International Event within one year of the delivery of the first card, the Person Responsible shall be suspended for 2 months.*

The Eventing Committee added that for Eventing it was proposed that the Yellow warning card needed to be clarified for Eventing as follows:

1. the suspension should only be enforced if the 2nd offence is for the same reason as the first (i.e. dangerous riding)
2. the suspension be effective "immediately" after the conclusion of the event.

- **Athlete to replace Competitor - Throughout all text**
- **2009 Dressage Tests:** The 2009 Dressage tests have been reviewed by the Committee taking into account the comments received from several NFs and the new tests will be posted as of 20 October on FEI web-site.
- **Pony Regulations:** Further to the decision to disband the Pony Committee, the rules for Pony Eventing competitions have been included as an annex to the Rules for Eventing. These rules will eventually to be integrated in the Rules for Eventing.