



# EUROPEAN EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION NEWS

## February 2018

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### Upcoming Meetings

- **22 Feb 2018:** EHN Board Meeting in Brussels (BEL)
- **22-23 March 2018:** EU Sport Forum in Sofia (BUL)
- **26-27 March 2018:** FEI Sports Forum in Lausanne (SUI)
- **21-22 April 2018:** EMHF General Assembly in Athens (GRE)
- **17-20 May 2018:** World Conference on Women and Sport in Gaborone (BWA)
- **27 May 2018:** EEF in-person Board Meeting in Rome (ITA)
- **28 May 2018:** EEF General Assembly in Rome (ITA)



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## EEF Division 2 Qualifiers in 2018

As a result of numerous meetings held with National Federations and Organizers throughout the year 2017 that reflected an outstanding level of commitment for the Nations Cup and displayed the power of cooperation, we are pleased to inform you that the concept proposed by the Division 2 community for 2018 has been approved by the FEI in cooperation with the EEF.

The following events will serve as qualification events for the 2018 Division 2 Final which will be held in Budapest (HUN):

Group A: CSIO2\* Athens (GRE) 07-10 June 2018

Group A: CSIO1\*-W Bojourishte (BUL) 28 June – 01 July 2018

Group C: CSIO4\* Linz-Ebelsberg (AUT) 03-06 May 2018

Group C: CSIO3\* Lisbon (POR) 31 May – 03 June 2018

Group D: CSIO3\* Drammen (NOR) 10-13 May 2018

Group D: CSIO3\* Uggerhalne (DEN) 23-27 May 2018

The detailed qualification system for Division 2 Nations Cup Qualifiers can be found at [http://inside.fei.org/system/files/EEF\\_D2-qualif-system\\_2018.pdf](http://inside.fei.org/system/files/EEF_D2-qualif-system_2018.pdf).

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## 2018 FEI Elections & Appointments

With reference to the FEI Update (dated 01 February 2018) the EEF would like to encourage European NFs to put candidates forward for the open positions that have been published on the FEI website at <http://inside.fei.org/fei/elections>.

National Federations are particularly asked to inform their athletes about the importance of representation in the FEI Athletes Committee and the online election process that will be conducted for these positions. Top athletes shall be motivated to put their candidacies forward and all FEI athletes registered by your NF shall be encouraged to participate in the online elections that will determine their representation for the coming four years.

Any candidate that wishes to be considered by the EEF for endorsement is kindly asked to share her/his letter of motivation and CV with the EEF ([carina.mayer@euroequestrian.eu](mailto:carina.mayer@euroequestrian.eu)) by 01 April 2018.



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## Para-Equestrian Reining

As a follow-up of the EEF Regional Group meeting held in Montevideo (URU) in November 2017 and the presentation given by the Chair of the FEI Reining Committee, the EEF would like to gather feedback from NFs with regards to national activities in the discipline of Para-Equestrian Reining.

If your NF actively engages in Para-Equestrian Reining activities we would appreciate a brief summary of these activities to be sent to the EEF ([carina.mayer@euroequestrian.eu](mailto:carina.mayer@euroequestrian.eu)). The summary could for example relate to the:

- number of registered athletes & horses
- number of competitions/events per year
- tests used for the competitions
- medical classification system for athletes

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## 7<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Women and Sport

The IWG World Conferences on Women and Sport are milestone events, which every four years focus global attention on specific goals and action steps aimed at offering men and women equal opportunities in the sport arena. In 2018, the Conference will take place in Gaborone (Botswana) from 17-20 May 2018.

The Conference will be held under the theme “Determine the future. Be Part of the change” and will feature 6 plenary sessions and side events along the following topical sub themes:

- Let them lead: Changing the leadership landscape of sports
- Safe space: Protecting women in sport
- Tell their story: Leveraging media to advocate for women’s sport
- Being well to play well
- Welcome and empower all through sport
- Sport without borders: Cross-cultural collaboration

More details related to the conference can be found at <http://iwg-gti.org>.

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## EU Sport Forum in Sofia (BUL)

In 2018, the EU Sport Forum will take place on March 22-23 in Sofia, Bulgaria, and will once again explore a variety of relevant sporting matters. The Forum is a great opportunity to network with other partners in European sport as it brings together all main stakeholders and interested parties in sport matters throughout Europe. The EU Sport Forum is an annual event which usually takes place in the host country of the EU presidency at the time. Some practical information, a draft agenda and link for registration are now available on the European Commission Sport website at [https://ec.europa.eu/sport/forum\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/sport/forum_en).

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## European-Commission Antitrust Decision:

### International Skating Union's restrictive penalties on athletes breach EU competition rules

The European Commission has decided that International Skating Union (ISU) rules imposing severe penalties on athletes participating in speed skating competitions that are not authorised by the ISU are in breach of EU antitrust law. The ISU must now change these rules.

Commissioner Margrethe Vestager, in charge of competition policy, said: *"International sports federations play an important role in athletes' careers - they protect their health and safety and the integrity of competitions. However, the severe penalties the International Skating Union imposes on skaters also serve to protect its own commercial interests and prevent others from setting up their own events. The ISU now has to comply with our decision, modify its rules, and open up new opportunities for athletes and competing organisers, to the benefit of all ice skating fans"*.

The ISU is the sole body recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to administer the sports of figure skating and speed skating on ice. Its members are national ice skating associations. The ISU and its members organise and generate revenues from speed skating competitions, including from major international competitions such as the Winter Olympic Games, World and European championships.

The Commission's investigation found that:

- Under the ISU eligibility rules, in place since 1998, speed skaters participating in competitions that are not approved by the ISU face severe penalties up to a lifetime ban from all major international speed skating events. The ISU can impose these penalties at its own discretion, even if the independent competitions pose no risk to legitimate sports objectives, such as the protection of the integrity and proper conduct of sport, or the health and safety of athletes.



- By imposing such restrictions, the ISU eligibility rules restrict competition and enable the ISU to pursue its own commercial interests to the detriment of athletes and organisers of competing events. In particular, the Commission considers that the ISU eligibility rules restrict the commercial freedom of athletes who are prevented from participating in independent skating events. As a result of the ISU eligibility rules, athletes are not allowed to offer their services to organisers of competing skating events and may be deprived of additional sources of income during their relatively short speed skating careers.
- The ISU eligibility rules prevent independent organisers from putting together their own speed skating competitions because they are unable to attract top athletes. This has limited the development of alternative and innovative speed skating competitions, and deprived ice-skating fans from following other events.

The ISU introduced certain changes to its eligibility rules in June 2016. Despite these, the Commission found that the system of penalties set out by the eligibility rules remains disproportionately punitive and prevents the emergence of independent international speed skating competitions. Therefore, the Commission concluded that the ISU eligibility rules are anticompetitive and breach Article 101 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

### **Consequences of the decision**

The Commission decision requires the ISU to stop its illegal conduct within 90 days and to refrain from any measure that has the same or an equivalent object or effect. In order to comply, the ISU can abolish or modify its eligibility rules so that they are based only on legitimate objectives (explicitly excluding the ISU's own economic interests) and that they are inherent and proportionate to achieve those objectives.

In particular, the ISU should not impose or threaten to impose unjustified penalties on athletes who participate in competitions that pose no risk to legitimate sports objectives. If the ISU maintains its rules for the authorisation of third party events, they have to be based on objective, transparent and non-discriminatory criteria and not be intended simply to exclude competing independent event organisers.

Source: European Commission Press Release [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-17-5184\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-17-5184_en.htm)

