



Minutes

Meeting	EEF Driving Working Group
Date	Thursday, 20 July 2017
Time	15:30 – 18:30
Location	CHIO Aachen, Albert-Servais-Allee 50, 52070 Aachen, Germany (Meeting Room “Shutterfly”)
Chair	Quentin Simonet (FRA)
Minutes	Carina Mayer (EEF)

Working Group Members	
Jan Devaere	BEL NF & FEI Steward General
Arnild Arp-Hansen (excused)	DEN NF
Chris Smith (excused)	GBR NF
Fritz Otto-Erley	GER NF
Zsuzsi Mityko	HUN NF
Franz Schiltz	LUX NF
Ad Aarts (excused)	NED Chef d’Equipe
Matthieu Landers	SUI NF
Invited Guest Participants	
Jeroen Houterman	ADO President
Pia Skar	DEN Judge
Jane Isaac	GBR NF
Adrienne van Waardenberg-Nooren	NED NF
Fredrik Persson	SWE four in hand driver
Karoly Fugly	FEI Chair of the Driving Committee
Manuel Bandeira de Mello (excused)	FEI Director Driving
Hanfried Haring	President
Carina Mayer	Secretary General

Pt.	Topic	Annex
1	Introduction & Welcome	
2	FEI proposed rule changes for 2018	X
3	Youth Championship	
4	Young Horses Championship	
5	Para Driving Championship	
6	Continental Championships for Singles & Pairs	X
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1. Introduction & Welcome

Hanfried Haring, Karoly Fugli and Quentin Simonet welcome the meeting attendants and thank them for their expert contributions to the newly founded EEF Driving Working Group which will be an advisory body for the EEF Board with regards to Driving matters.

Quentin Simonet presents recent statistics of the Driving discipline which show that numbers of events, horses and drivers are increasing whereas there is a decreasing number of new officials. The timeline of the FEI rules revision process is presented according to which NFs will have to submit their feedback on the proposed rule changes.

2. FEI proposed rule changes for 2018

The group provides the following input on the proposed rule changes:

Art. 907: keep possibility to use single horse in team

Art 928.3.1: keep the rule “at all times” ; back protector is fine ;

To be clarified whether air protector needs to be worn in combination with a hard protector or if wearing only an air protector is sufficient

Art. 928.4.2: keep penalty points consistent whatever rule change will be implemented (either 5 everywhere or 10 everywhere)

Feedback desired from FEI Driving Committee on the following questions:

- why is use of whip compulsory?
- what is the sporting value of this rule when a driver only starts with a whip but is then allowed to throw it away?

Art. 945: proposed changed is supported.

Art. 948: different opinions on this proposed change;

HUN: proposal to draw for marathon same as for dressage or use starting list dressage also for marathon;

NED: Chef d'Equipe should set order of his Drivers in the team like in Jumping

FRA: desirable to keep a kind of reverse order for commercial reasons, broadcasting etc

GER: starting like in eventing with blocks of teams then individuals then teams again etc.; Chef d'Equipe must be able to watch each driver which is not possible if 3 Drivers are on the marathon course at the same time; broadcast not possible when all favorites are on marathon course at the same time; for the team competitions there should be 1 Driver per NF in each group and the Chef d'Equipe can choose the order of go within his team

LUX: leading drivers need to compete under similar conditions (heat, mud, etc)

SWE: prefers draw for fairness among Drivers

Art. 955: NED will make a proposal for Para

Art. 960.1.6: proposed change is not supported, needs more detailed thought from the FEI; Jeroen Houterman will make a proposal.

Zig-zag problem led to this proposal but proposal is not satisfying, current rule is also not satisfying.

GER: optimum time in Eventing would be a good idea for Driving as well; FRA: if no minimum time then traffic problem in obstacles

SWE: welfare of the horse should be paramount with walk-section but at the moment the horses must stop. One idea would be to have a walk section 30m after obstacle 8; Jeroen Houterman: this would require more judges (1 after obstacle, 1 after 30m, vet?, walk section)

Art. 960.1.7: GER will make a proposal

Suggestions to allow 4* Championships with only 2 sections when there is a warm-up section; 25minutes warm-up then allocated obstacle time and again 5 minutes warm-up;

Ask for clarification whether the exact same rules apply for the warm-up section as for Section A (ie no change of horses etc);

Recommendation to give all stewards good guidelines related to this rule.

Art. 963: consisting timing 0.3 or 0.25 but not mixed

FEI General Regulations: propose rule changes so that the Para Driving Championship will take place every 2nd year.

3. Youth Championship

Quentin Simonet and the attendants agree that the Youth is a very important target group in order to secure the future of the Driving discipline. The number of Youth Championships is increasing in other FEI disciplines but Driving only has them every 2nd year.

Karoly Fugli adds that back in 2011 Driving had been the only FEI discipline with decreasing numbers and the FEI Driving Committee had thus taken the initiative to offer competitions for Children, Juniors and Young Drivers at the first EU-CH for Youth in Wiener Neustadt (AUT). This had a huge impact on the Youth and resulted in the plan to have the Youth Championships in Year 1, the Pony Championship in Year 2, etc. Since then the numbers as well as the quality have increased. It is now the task to develop to the next level which is not always easy because Driving is the most complex discipline in the FEI. One suggestion would be to provide guidance to NFs on how to develop Youth Driving on a national level. The regional development of the Driving discipline is also a very important subject in this regard.

The following consensus is reached among the meeting participants:

- FEI Driving Youth Championships should be held every year
- Lower levels are needed to enter into the Driving discipline (Driving games, 2x Cones, intermediate step small dressage and combined Marathon/Cones with focus on Cones)
- Keep single horse possibility in a team
- Dressage test should be more challenging

The following individual feedback was shared:

NED: National Youth Driving is not far enough yet in the Netherlands, there are no rules to qualify Youth Drivers for Championships. It is felt that there are too many championships throughout the year but if there are annual Youth Championships in every other FEI discipline then Driving needs it as well. Once the national system will be well set up in the Netherlands there will also be the willingness to send Drivers to FEI Youth Driving Championships.

GER: It is a problem when the Youth CHs are only every second year because of age groups. However, it's also difficult finding organizers and difficult to send drivers to annual championship because of cost. Nonetheless it is important for the Youth to have these Championships. In case Dressage & Jumping are changing the FEI age limit for children up to 15 then this would also be good for Driving;

Quentin. Difficult for some NFs to always send to HUN so also need bidders in other countries

FRA: There are a lot of championships in Driving compared to the figures in the discipline but in terms of growth and development it is very important to boost Youth Championships and find NF solutions, for example regarding financing (NF not to pay everything, families to cover travel costs);

GER: Ask FEI to look at necessity of number of officials necessary for Youth Championships (compare number of officials with number of drivers). The German national Youth Driving Championships are very well attended (around 130 drivers) and follow a well-established concept of regional qualifiers and regional championships. Throughout the year the Youth competes in normal classes. The German NF is kindly asked by the attendants to share the

schedule and concept of its German Driving Championships with the other nations. Germany considers the age categories of U15, U18 and U25 as very important.

BEL: Last 5 years difficulty with youth development, numbers decreasing, huge step from juniors to seniors, lack of young Drivers.

HUN: There are less than 10 youth Drivers in Hungary and numbers are decreasing; only single categories would be good to be driven during Youth events and also at the Championships.

DEN: Children are prepared from the age of 8 years, national children classes from 10-14 years; these young people really like to compete; there is the need for a single horse for the team.

SUI: Swiss working group starting now to adopt FEI system; due to border problems there are not enough drivers coming to Swiss driving events; SUI happy to organize and give prize-money but border crossing is still too expensive for many nations.

GBR: Travel problem, channel crossing is expensive. Should be possible to put single horse in a team.

LUX: The Dressage test for Young Drivers is below their level and needs to be raised; not good to have only single ponies in a team because it prevents NFs from sending teams (Karoly Fugli is going to analyze figures what would happen if the new rule gets implemented; it would certainly not be desirable to loose nations);

4. Young Horse Championships

Karoly Fugli explains that the FEI Driving Committee considers the Young Horse Championships as an important subject; It would be desirable to receive bids from a variety of countries for upcoming Championships and all NFs should feel free to send bids.

The following consensus is reached among the meeting participants:

- stay with Young Horse Championship every year
- only include 5 year old and 6 year old horses in Young Horse Championships. Minimum horse age for 3* competitions to be set at 7 years old. Young horses in the age of 5 or 6 years shall only be allowed to compete in 2* events or lower in order to give more time to the young horses. It is highlighted that such a change would need to be communicated 2-3 years in advance;
- increase demands for 6 year old horses at the YH Championships and also for the 7 year old horses if they remain included in the Championship (because 7yo can for example drive 8 obstacles in normal events but only 2 obstacles in YH classes)

The following individual feedback was shared:

LUX: Great venue in HUN, good project that should be promoted; Qualification now completely open leads to the risk that international YH classes will disappear when there is no longer a qualification requirement at normal shows.

GER HUN SUI GBR state that qualification for the Young Horse Championships should be done at national YH classes, same as is possible in other FEI disciplines. Karoly Fugli adds that

if this Championship develop into a marketplace at a later stage then drivers will show their horses at international events as well.

BEL: Some countries need more challenges in the tests in order to develop.

Jeroen Houterman: Be more clear about difference between 2* and 3* levels (not only price money)

FRA: Horse welfare is of utmost importance; anticipate activity of welfare activists so that the Driving community can be active instead of only reactive.

5. Para Driving Championship

Quentin Simonet states that the FEI rules allow for the Para Driving Championship to be organized every year but it is very difficult and expensive for NFs to send drivers to such annual event.

- The attendants agree that a rule changes shall be proposed to the FEI General Regulations so that the Para Driving Championship will take place every 2nd year.

The NED NF states that the FEI Para-Equestrian Forum that was held earlier this year in Great Britain was only about Para-Dressage but not at all about Para-Driving. It appears that there is no knowledge about Para-Driving in the FEI Driving Committee and no Driving representative in the FEI Para-Equestrian Committee. It is suggested to add someone to the FEI Driving Committee with knowledge in Para-Driving. Para-Driving Championships should only be held every 2nd year and be organized as an integrated Championship together with the able-bodied 2-in-hand Championships; FEI Driving Committee should favor bids that include both para and able-bodied, same as is the case in Dressage / Para-Dressage.

The FEI is kindly asked to clarify the responsibility for Para-Driving within the FEI.

6. Continental Championships for Singles & Pairs

The HUN NF presents its proposal submitted to the EEF and states that it would be good to give new motivation for singles and pairs, similar to the already existing system of four-in-hand; the HUN NF has received letters of support from several European Nations which will be shared with the EEF. France and Belgium have verbally stated their support for the Hungarian proposal.

- The attendants agree that the FEI Driving calendar requires a thorough analysis and that it is difficult to add more and more Championships. At this stage, there is no common support for the introduction of EU-CH for Singles & Pairs.

An alternative could be to link several events and promote them as a tour. We need to keep in mind that we cannot always judge the situation only from the athlete perspective, we need to look at it from a market point of view as well.

7. FEI Calendar

This item is postponed.

8. AOB

No subjects are raised.

The Chair thanks the meeting attendants for their very active discussion and valuable contributions to this working group and closes the meeting.