



The future of the Jumping sport in Europe

EEF JUMPING ROUND TABLE 2021-2022

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The horse makes our sport so special, but also so vulnerable



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1) INTRODUCTION

To be able to continue to exercise equestrian sports, there will be a need to be accepted and get the approval from people not involved in our sport, the society. It is therefore necessary that we make our sport acceptable and sustainable.

What do we mean with sustainability of our sport?

For the EEF, managing the Sport in a **sustainable way** means that:

the sport has a strategy to continue to grow in activity and relevance, to adapt and to attract new resources and public in the global sports scene and in the broader society for the benefit of all its stakeholders and with a non-negotiable observance and promotion of Horse Welfare and with a responsible Environmental behavior.

Based on the above definition there is a real concern that the general environment around sports, and the equestrian sports in particular, is changing rapidly and that we, as a community, are missing a medium-long term strategy and vision for our Sport, one that should not be limited only to our given commitment and efforts to remain an Olympic sport.

Nowhere are these concerns more present than in Europe, where the Sport is nowadays ruled by and dependent on not only the IOC and the FEI Rules and Regulations, but also on the EU Laws, the numerous national legislations and the prevailing social and animal-welfare interest and pressure.

With 75% of the international Jumping sport taking place in Europe and with EEF being the FEI Continental Group representing Europe, it comes only logical for the EEF to begin this exercise with an initial focus on the Jumping sport in Europe.

In putting together the task specific Round Table, the EEF has begun the exercise by determining the current situation, the scope and the stakeholders/ institutions and their roles, as they are today **(see 13) ANNEX 1 below)** and also reached the following preliminary conclusions :

In order to be able to address the issues and investigate the matter of sustainability of our Sport in the future, it is necessary to look into the role(s) of the different stakeholders today and, in particular, into the current role/involvement of the FEI, as the most influential and deciding stakeholder.

The following items/issues have been addressed and investigated and we have come to appropriate proposals for improvement. However, we do recognize that a discussion about the role of the different stakeholders and in particular the role of the FEI in the future is a different issue all together.

The investigated items/ issues are:



- Calendar
- License
- License fee
- Events
- Event Classification System
- Invitation systems
- Ranking of Riders and Horses
- Officials
- Role of the FEI
- Strategy
- Social license

Horse welfare is one of the most important, if not the most important, topic that will have a major impact on the sustainability of equestrian sport in the future. As this topic is directly linked to our sport regulations, the RT is of the opinion that this topic should be addressed by the FEI. In this paper we assess and analyse each of the above items separately.



2) CALENDAR

The RT feels that the way the calendar is managed today, is no longer possible in the future. The enormous increase in the number of events in Europe in combination with the EU laws providing for a free market, demand a different approach in the way the calendar is properly managed.

It is obvious that with so many events, it is impossible to avoid date clashes. However, additional challenges in managing the calendar include:

- OCs change their dates more frequently and easily
- OCs book more dates in advance and thus block possibilities for other OCs (fake or alternative dates)
- OCs can object to events or be objected by OCs of events in other continents
- Force Majeure situations (COVID-19, EHV, etc.) necessary lead to suspension and flexibility in the events calendar entries system

Taking everything into consideration, including EU legislation, it seems that the future for the Sport should be based on a free market system for events and OCs.

This will inevitably lead to a situation where clashes will no longer be an issue in the calendar and where the role for the FEI as administrator of the calendar will be substantially altered.

An altered FEI calendar role shall not mean a compromise in the main objectives and responsibilities of the FEI to ensure that events are organized with the highest standard for Horse Welfare, Rules compliance and an environmental sustainability. Therefore, the FEI will still need to maintain its institutional control over the OCs and events.

The above system is applicable to the Sport in Europe, but may be premature for the jumping sport in other continents. Until the FEI is ready to apply changes globally, a European Calendar could be introduced focused on European events and based on the principles of the free market as analysed above.

The European Competition law demands a concept of FREE Market for the allocation of international sports events in the future. Consequently, the FEI will have to define rules and procedures that comply with the principle of FREE Market on the one hand and allow for proper planning and organization of international events, on the other hand.

To apply such rules we need to establish minimum and uniform timelines for events to be organized properly. This can serve as a definition of a minimum timeframe that OCs have to respect when allowing their events on certain dates.



The timelines have to be set to allow:

- Riders a period so they can make entries through the FEI invitation and entry system which requires six weeks.
- To have the time required for the FEI and NFs to have the schedules approved which is app. four weeks.
- Championships, World-continental, need extra time to be considered.

In the given timeframes public holidays, staff annual leave, sick leave, time for discussions and negotiations between an OC and NF/FEI about details of the schedule are also to be taken into consideration. In line with the reasons mentioned above, the RT has the following proposal for date applications in the FEI Calendar to be submitted at the latest on the Monday before the following respective deadlines, namely:

- Two (2) years for a World or Continental Championship
- Two (2) years for the High level (6*) events
- One (1) year for 5* events
- Twenty six (26) weeks for 4* events
- Ten (10) weeks for 1*-2* and 3* events

Following timely submission as above, the FEI will have to approve the schedules within 14 working days.

During the time period of Continental Championships (where athletes from the same continent are invited), World Championships or Olympic and Paralympic Games, no 5* or 6* events will be scheduled in the same disciplines.

The RT realizes that a completely FREE Market is not realistic and would probably lead to chaos. However, the RT feels confident that the above registered deadlines, as supported, will be acceptable under EU law and as such could be successfully defended.

When an OC enters a show in the calendar a calendar fee will have to be paid before a date is accepted. In case the show does not take part the fee will not be refunded .

The RT recommends the following actions:

- 2.1 As the EU requires the market for OC's to be free, there cannot be a restriction on the number of shows an OC will book into the calendar. To avoid cancellations as much as possible, the RT recommends to raise the calendar fee substantially.**
- 2.2 In the event that an organization cancels an event booked in the calendar, it will forfeit the calendar fee, and in case the organization cancels more than one booked event, it will no**



longer be allowed to reserve multiple dates for events in the calendar again in the next calendar year (this sanction will not apply in cases of force majeure).

- 2.3 The FEI should form a special and independent committee comprising representatives of involved equestrian stakeholders to oversee the Calendar set up a framework for the entry rules, deadlines, as well as for judging over possible sanctions for OCs.
- 2.4 When a date is entered in the calendar, the OC is not allowed to change that date anymore, except in cases of Force Majeure, subject to the committee's confirmation.
- 2.5 The FEI should look into the possibility to make the calendar an "official legal" document.



3) LICENSE

Instead of the FEI evaluating, classifying and scheduling an event in the Calendar based on an OC's arbitrary submission each time, the RT has, also after consulting with the USEF, considered a proposal where the FEI will grant specific "Licences" to OCs registered with the FEI.

These OCs can be businesses or NFs, but must be registered with the FEI and/or the EO for purposes of organizing international events of a guaranteed quality and performance.

To obtain an event License will depend on the prize money on offer and the date, as well as on conditions and obligations which cover technical requirements (such as footing, stabling, stable security), the appointment of approved officials, the level of riders invited, and possibly also environmental and social standards.

Therefore, the current non-binding calendar system based on calendar entries by insufficiently regulated OCs, shall be replaced by a system, whereby only OC's which have obtained a License for a certain star level event, can book dates in the calendar.

The FEI will offer and grant Licenses to existing and possible new OC's when the shows are meeting certain preconditions.

To have only OCs organizing shows which are licensed by the FEI is important, as it would enhance the FEI's institutional position before governments and communities, as only shows with an FEI License, which can be seen as a certification, will be allowed to organize equestrian events. This will ensure that the organized shows meet the highest standards for horse welfare and environment and will also be used to support the "social license" of our sport.

A License will be awarded by using the ECS system (modified) pro-actively and based on information filled out by the OC. It is important that the star level of an OC is no longer ONLY determined by the amount of price money, but by a combination of many other standards.

It is possible that such a screening will lead for a number of OCs to a change of their existing or desired star level. It is also possible that some OCs will have a problem accepting a new star level and that they could come to challenge the outcome, even legally, against the FEI. To defend the classification, the FEI has to (a) create an objective and clear ECS system that could stand any challenge and (b) create a frame of implementation that is conflict free, independent, transparent and respective of the FREE market principles.

The License is granted to a registered or a new OC by the FEI against a fee and will be ultimately awarded for more years, however, the RT recommends to start with one year licenses only.

The level of the License will be determined by a combination of the technical requirements, the quality of the venue and services, a minimum prize money and other factors discussed.



Such a License system will give the possibility to the FEI to check on the technical facilities that are necessary to safe guard horse welfare and environmental issues. A modified ECS system can be used to establish the start level of a show. The License can be given to shows for one year or multiple years, but in case it is given for multiple years, the License will be revisited and can also be retracted, if the necessary conditions for that level are no longer met.

In general: After consultation with the USEF, the RT is of the opinion that a License for OC's will have the following advantages:

- A License system would help to have a consistent calendar of top events as no date changes will be allowed.
- The FEI could manage the calendar and control the number of OC's per city, per region, per continent.
- OC's will be allowed to make entries in the FEI calendar, only if they have a License

Th RT is not in favour of making it possible for OC's to transfer their Licenses to another OC. The Licenses are OC specific and if an OC cannot use its Licence for whatever reason, the License will be returned to the FEI.

The RT recommends the following actions:

- 3.1 To control if an OC is meeting its granted License obligations, the FEI should install a working group to establish the different criteria for the different star levels and to judge in case of conflict. In the working group or committee all stakeholders should be represented.
- 3.2 An OC cannot book an event higher than the awarded License.
- 3.3 In case an OC wants to organize an event with a higher star level it should require a new License for the star level.
- 3.4 Being in the calendar alone does not give the right to organize. Only with a proper license is an OC allowed to organize a show
- 3.5 The License for a specific star level must be obtained at least six months before the respective deadlines to enter a date in the calendar
- 3.6 A show will be checked regularly by an independent inspector and the president of the ground jury will always give a debriefing of the event.



4) LICENSE FEE

The existing Organization Fee will be replaced by a License Fee. This License Fee will be an annual fee to be paid according to the star level.

In case the FEI will give Licenses for more than one year, each year the FEI will invoice the OC for the respective annual License Fee.

In case an OC will not organize an event, the fee will have to be paid anyway. In case the OC is not paying its fee, then the OC is losing its right to organize an event and will also get fined for blocking dates and distorting the calendar.

License Fees will not only allow a better management of the FEI Calendar, but will also provide financial medium-long term predictability for the FEI budget.

License Fees can be used also by National Federations to control the OCs on the national levels.

NOTE: The USEF is issuing licences only for **one** year, as issuing Licenses for more years was administrative too difficult due the many changes.

The RT recommends :

4.1 to establish a License Fee representing the different star levels.



5) EVENTS

The organisation of events should be free for every OC, as it is in every free market. At the moment the FEI has the international events divided in 5 levels, the so called * levels.

Each level is distinguished by the maximum and minimum prize money and comes along with certain sport rules and requirements, which can differ in their application around the world, due to the circumstances.

Currently, the decisive factor to become a 1*-2*-3*-4* or 5* event is exclusively the amount of prize money of that show.

We have seen over the last 10 years an explosion of 5* and lower events in Europe. While it is satisfactory that “more events means more starting opportunities” for riders and horses, there are also negative effects, especially with regard to 5* events.

In the past, the few 5* events guaranteed top sport, but this is no longer necessarily the case. Granting the * level only based on the prize money on offer, without taking into consideration the quality of riders and horses, the public attendance, the media attention, the event history/tradition, the facilities, management and services etc., has created a situation where one is no longer able to tell the difference between a real 5* top event (Calgary, Aachen, Geneva, Rome, La Baule, etc.) and an ordinary 5* event (CSIs).

The result is that the media and the public cannot recognize anymore a real top event, while the competition between the different 5* events is distorted, in real-world-terms.

We have two main categories of events:

- FEI Championships and named series
- Standalone CSIs and FEI approved series

The level of events will have to be reviewed, as the conditions (minimum requirements) to determine the level of an event have to be more than prize money alone. Technical and facilities requirements will become more important than prize money, as they are essential for **Social License** that the sport needs in the future. The minimum requirements for the several events have to be included in the FEI Events Classification System.

By creating a level with only important events, and classifying them as Flagship event we create a much clearer structure and image for the equestrian community and the outside world and the media.



EVENT LEVELS

Events should be put in the different categories according to the quality of the event. We should use therefore a simplified ECS system, that will be pragmatic and representative, not theoretic and subjective.

International event levels.

Since many years, there are five * levels of international shows. Each level has a minimum prize money requirement and comes along with other rules and requirements, but the number of stars awarded is directly linked to prize money.

This system has shown a number of weaknesses in the past. It is now widely agreed that the number of stars awarded to shows should no longer be given exclusively according to their distributed prize money but also on the basis of other criteria. In this context, a new and revamped ECS (Event Classification System) should be put in place

We propose to divide all international events into the following 5 categories:

- Championships: Olympics, World and Continental championships, Nations Cup Final and World Cup Final.
- **Flagship** events: this are very high level or Top events with a proposed new 6* level. A 6* status should only be awarded to the best of the best shows, which have outstanding facilities and attracting much public as well as media interest. The name Flagship or Major could be considered for 6*events.
- 5* events.
- 4* events.
- 3*, 2* and 1* events.

Proposed Rules and Requirements:

A list of the proposed key rules, minimum requirements for each category of international events will need to be reviewed and established again. There should be minimum requirements in place which all international events must meet, and additional specific requirements for the different star levels of events. Most important however is that the rules, requirements for all levels worldwide are equal.



Championships and Games

The Olympic Games are still something exceptional. They are of fundamental importance for the future of our sport in general. On an individual and NF level, every NF, rider and owner wants to participate at least once in the OGs, and there is never a discussion about prize money or other prerequisites.

However, other FEI Games and Championships are not a “must” anymore for riders and owners, as there is too much jumping and cost, and not enough prize money or longer term benefits, such as fame, legacy and use to promote the sport.

The WEG (in its latest format) and the change of horses for the World Championship in Jumping have been discontinued for reasons that may be pragmatic and reflective of today’s reality and horse management, however this change has come with a serious toll to the image and the marketing and story-telling ability of our sport.

EU Championships in Seniors remain a highlight and a major goal for equestrian stakeholders in Europe, but their organization is increasingly expensive and burdensome for OCs, due to many reasons including the FEI’s requirements, and less attractive for competitors when compared to other standalone events and series. To secure their continuation, attractiveness and usefulness for the Sport, EU Championships shall remain supervised by the FEI, but shall be released from its commercial and sponsorship stronghold.

Youth EU CHs in Jumping are sought after by OCs and constitute a big success and a highlight in every season for all Stakeholders, as a result of a higher degree of freedom allowed to the OCs by the Rules and the FEI, that make them also easier profitable. They could become a model also for EU CHs for Seniors.

Championships are by definition a category of their own and the rules and requirements for Championships shall remain under the FEI (and the IOC for the Olympic Games). Therefore, no specific proposal is made for Championships in this document. However, we add to the list with Championships the Nations Cup Final and the World Cup Final, as they are very important for the equestrian sport.

It is important that the FEI creates a clear strategy to increase ambition with OCs for FEI Championships to assure that those events are again a real highlight in the sport with the best possible participation. To avoid legal and sponsorship conflicts, the FEI could alternatively withdraw from the organization of Continental Championships (i.e. EU CH in all age categories) and assign same to Continental representative bodies, as it has recently done with Regional Championships.



FLAGSHIP EVENTS

To attract more attention for our sport, bring it to a next level and allow a better understanding of it by the general public, it is recommended to create a top level category with real top events, the so called **FLAGSHIPS or MAJORS** (like the term used in tennis).

Events eligible for the title **FLAGSHIP** or **MAJOR** title are only the best of the best top standalone events.

Conditions to earn the title Flagship or Major for standalone events can be indicatively:

- Public attendance
- History/tradition of the event
- Prize Money available.
- Outstanding Facilities
- No use of pay cards.
- Media attention
- Being a promotion for the image of our sport

Being a Flagship or a Major should create an exclusivity, which should lead to a maximum of attention to benefit the whole sport. It is important that the Flagships or Major events have all the same concept worldwide. And cannot be mixed with other events or series.

To decide which event can be called a Flagship or Major requires flexibility regarding sponsors. There must be a clear structure for Flagships or Majors, to be scheduled evenly and strategically throughout the year. Excellence has to be rewarded .

To be awarded the label Flagship or Major, a special FEI or independent committee will examine and decide which events are allowed to be called a Flagship or Major event

The RT recommends :

- 5.1 To look into the possibilities to introduce a special high-level category of 6* events to be called Flagship or Majors.
- 5.2 To establish special rules and conditions for Flagship/Major events.
- 5.3 To form a special committee to establish the special rules and conditions for the Major or Flagship events and be the committee that decides how many and which event is entitled to carry the name FLAGSHIP od MAJOR, but a relationship to any specific sponsor shall not be a criteria. This committee shall comprise representatives of all stakeholders in the Jumping sport.
- 5.4 Following the recommendation of the committee, the FEI will decide how many standalone events can be called Flagship or Major.
- 5.5 The Committee together with the FEI should make sure that the invitation system and ranking points for the Flagship or Major events make it possible as to attract only the best



combinations. Special quota level made for the Flagship or Major events. Proposal from the RT is 80% ranking system, 15% National Federation and 5% for the OC.

5.6 To determine the final name for those high level events.

OTHER EVENTS

5* Events

- To be awarded a 5* license, we consider that new events should have had at least 1 years of successful existence as a 4* event.
- For 5* shows, the main rules and requirements should be a prize money of a minimum of 500 000 Euros and the same invitation rules as today: ranking 60% – NFs 20% - OC 20%.
- The other rules and requirements for the 5* events will be based on a new, revamped and simplified ECS (Event Classification System) to be defined (see paragraph IV).

4* Events

- To be awarded a 4* license, we consider that a new event should have had at least 1 year of successful existence as a 3* event. An experienced OC may organize a 4* immediately.
- For 4* events, the main rules and requirements should be a minimum prize money of 350.000 Euros and the same invitation rules as today: ranking 50% – NFs 25% - OCs 25%.
- The other rules and requirements would be based on a new, revamped and simplified ECS (Event Classification System) to be defined (see paragraph IV).

3*, 2*, 1* Events

- Organizers would be free to organize these shows within the general rules and regulations of the FEI.
- Minimum prize money would be for a 3*, for a 2* and for a 1 * event the same as it is today. The Invitation rules should be the same as today, depending a possible review of the invitation system.
- The other rules and requirements would be based on a new, revamped and simplified ECS (Event Classification System) to be defined (see paragraph IV).



For the events the RT recommends :

- 5.7 To set minimum technical requirements for OC's belonging to a star level.
- 5.8 To decide whether to start with the licensing system for all shows immediately or to start only with the (6*) 5* and 4* levels first.
- 5.9 Change the ECS into a system that can be used to determine in advance the star level of a show/OC.
- 5.10 The RT is not in favour of giving unused quotas from NFs to the OCs, but would like to see them returned to the FEI ranking, as is the existing procedure.



6) EVENT CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

The FEI has the ECS system, a classification system to evaluate events. However, this system is practically non-implementable (as admitted), because:

- It is too complicated with too many secondary and subjective evaluation points
- The result of the evaluation is kept in the FEI and only shared with the OC.

The RT recognizes that there is a need for a good simplified classification system, with emphasis on technical matters and on items important for the image of the event and of the sport in general. Organizers and Riders and other stakeholders should be involved in the creation of the simplified ECS.

The RT spent much time to discuss the problems with the existing system and which criteria are really important. The process what criteria to be implemented should be as technical and not subjective as possible.

One major role for the ECS system is to make sure that horse welfare, with regard to the facilities, is realized. An important result of the discussions was that the criteria for an event will be, as a result of the social welfare discussions, no longer static and will change over the years to come.

The RT recommends :

- 6.1 To create a working group, with all stakeholders involved, to establish the required technical and other requirements for the different star levels.
- 6.2 To simplify the ECS system so that it can be used to determine in advance the star levels for OCs and venues.
- 6.3 To focus on minimum requirements for events which include a demand for a commitment to neutrality target.
- 6.4 To demand from events to deliver ISO 20121 Standard and deliver continental improvements



7) INVITATION SYSTEM

At the moment, the current Calendar system necessarily calls for the use of the CSI Invitation System, as approved by the FEI. However, the FEI currently applies the STANDARD CSI Invitation system along with four distinctive variations/exemptions (**special invitation systems for CHs of all kinds not included**):

- The STANDARD Invitation System for standalone CSIs
- The CSIO invitation Rules
- World Cup invitation Rules
- GCL/GCT invitation Rules

Having in practice four different invitation systems, creates confusion, preference, backdoors, unfair and non-transparent conditions and, at the end of the day, an inefficient system for all stakeholders.

There should be one (1) invitation system based on the principals of the STANDARD Invitation System with two (2) variations to be applied uniformly:

- One for shows with individual competitions
- One for shows with team competitions (based on the of CSIO Invitation Rules adjusted to teams of 2 to 5 members)

As a working document in line with the above, the RT has approved a proposed amendment of the existing Invitation System (see 14) ANNEX 2 below):

The RT recommends:

- 7.1 To simplify the invitation system and make it the same for all OCs
- 7.2 To allow a special invitation system for Championships etc.
- 7.3 To introduce new quota for the Flagship events where appropriate.



8) RANKING

The existing ranking for riders, owned by the IJRC, is not ideal, as riders with more than one top horse will have more possibilities to ride in top events and as such have more possibilities to collect ranking points. As a result of the system the top riders and riders being able to take advantage of the different Invitations System (see above) will normally always ride in top shows and will always stay in the top of the ranking with all benefits. It becomes more or less a closed shop, an impression that is re-enhanced by the fact that the IJRC comprises mostly the top ranked riders of the world.

The RT considers that the current ranking is not totally adapted and can maintain a situation that does not allow new riders to easily obtain selections and invitations and to progress in the world ranking.

A new rider from a smaller NF with a good horse has limited possibilities to climb the Ranking. This is not the same in other sports, where individual athletes can climb in the respective rankings of these sports, based on their individual success and get invited to big tournaments. New faces and surprises are a marketing and refreshment element for sports and a driver for new riders and owners.

Being at the top of the Longines Ranking also allows the situation where a top rider may show up with a *third or fourth* horse, which is not what the OC or the public want to see.

It should also be recognized that a ranking list needs to be clear for the media and the public. A ranking in tennis or golf concerns one person collecting points in one event each time. A ranking in the equestrian sport means one person with a number of horses collecting points in more classes in the same event or in more events (sometimes even in the same week). This is not clear for outsiders.

The RT checked the ranking used for the Olympic Games. It is a ranking list with Horse-Rider combinations. A cross-check showed that that OG Individual Ranking List is clearly different from the Longines Ranking List.

As OCs like to know in advance what combinations they can expect to perform for their public, OCs should be able to invite combinations and not only riders.

Despite all these reasons as listed above, the RT does not support a radical change in the current ranking system from a rider ranking to a combination ranking. Such a change would put too much pressure on each rider's top horse to increase their combination ranking, whereas the current system allows new horses to progressively move up to the top level. Such a change would be contrary to horse welfare.

The RT is of the opinion that, despite the negative aspects of the existing Longines ranking system, it is preferable to continue with the Longines ranking system as it is today and not using the combination ranking as used for the OG. However the RT recommends to review the existing system as some improvements should be made to correct its most important flaws listed above.



9) OFFICIALS

The increasing number of international jumping events, especially those at the higher levels, is presenting a challenging situation. To ensure that horse welfare and the sport as a whole are safeguarded against the scrutiny of internal and external forces, it is necessary to attract new candidates while at the same time improve the quality of existing FEI Jumping Officials.

With the evolution of the sport, the duties and responsibilities of officials have expanded, yet recognition of, and consequent motivation for, their role has not kept pace. There needs to be greater general acknowledgement and appreciation by all stakeholders of the role officials play in our sport.

This following part focuses on FEI Jumping Judges only. However, the situation of FEI Jumping Stewards is similar. The situation of FEI Jumping Course Designers is somewhat different, as, at least in the top sport, most of them are professionals.

While judging at lower-level events is restricted to the technical running of the competitions, officiating at higher levels of the sport has become much more demanding. The requirements for officiating at higher level events extend beyond this.

It is currently mandatory that Level 4 Judges, who presently number 20, assume key roles at Olympic Games, Senior Championships and Games, World Cup and Nations Cup Finals and CSIO 5* events.

These officials need to have a:

- Proven knowledge of Horsemanship
- High English proficiency grade
- Extended knowledge of:
 - relevant FEI Rules and Regulations
 - the principles of course design
 - veterinary aspects
 - FEI-related legal procedures
- Good communication, media- and crisis- and conflict-management skills

New Level 4 Judges must be educated, trained, and mentored in order to meet future requirements, and we have to recognize that this takes time. Furthermore, at this time, there are only a few Level 3 Judges who meet the criteria for the Level 4 pathway. Therefore, the quality level of the Level 3 Judges must be improved already.

In order to improve the situation, the following measures should be adopted:

- Strengthen the scouting for potential officials
- Identify events where talented Judges could officiate with existing top officials (mentoring)
- Create a career pathway and support system for potential top officials
- Increase recognition of top officials



- Make the role of officials more attractive
- Improve education of top officials
- Consistent supervision and evaluation of potential top officials.

The RT is not in favour of having only professional international officials. The existing system that the FEI appoints the president of the ground jury, the foreign judge and the chief stewards gives enough transparency. Also there is doubt if the top officials are at all interested to become a full professional.

It is important to augment the number of new international officials in order to meet the requirements of the increasing number of events in general, and to improve the quality of existing officials acting at the growing number of top-level events.

The RT recommends:

- 9.1 To scout already on the national levels for potential future top officials and create a fast track to promote them.
- 9.2 To attract these (1) and other young officials by improving the education system and setting up a mentor system.
- 9.3 To make a budget available to create a pool with talents to be groomed to be the future star officials.
- 9.4 The FEI should give special attention to motivate 3* judges to go for the 4* level.



10) THE ROLE OF THE FEI

In order to be able to address the issues and investigate the matter of sustainability of our Sport in the future, it is necessary to look into the role(s) of the different stakeholders today and, in particular, into the current role/involvement of the FEI, as the most influential and deciding stakeholder.

The FEI currently has the following constitutional and legal roles :

- Institutional (regulating, officiating and representing the Sport)
- Executive (managing and promoting the Sport)
- Judicial (ruling the Sport and its stakeholders)

At the same time, the FEI is increasingly putting weight in its own competitive commercial and business activities (named series, global sponsorships, merchandise, media rights, business participations/agreements, etc.) which create contingent conflicts, governance issues and confusion. However we see them as part of a much larger discussion, which will have to be incorporate into the medium-long term strategy the FEI will have to write.

The FEI and the equestrian community have already been faced with the legal challenges of EU Competition law and European Courts applying their judgement to long time existing sport Rules and Regulations and practices. The FEI and NFs can no longer dictate or restrict the actions of stakeholders in our Sport. The FEI can no longer actively support or protect its “Named” sport products/series and can no longer freely govern the Annual Calendar and Invitation Systems according to its best judgement and long-time practices. And the NFs, being members of the FEI, are in their turn seriously affected and challenged by all of this.

In a free market, it is NOT possible for the FEI to protect events and products.

The FEI as an umbrella organization for the whole equestrian sport must handle all shows and OCs in the same way. However, in this respect, there is a discussion regarding FEI’s sponsor influence/power on the FEI named events and series.

The commercial activities of the FEI have more and more a negative effect on its FEI named series and events. There is increased difficulty to attract OCs to organize FEI Championships or FEI Named Series events, because of FEI’s commercial policy and requirements and its inability to actively support and protect these events, because of FEI’s legal constraints.

Leaving aside legal and commercial issues, the main consequence of FEI’s above influence is that some of the signature and best events of our sport are not included in the FEI Named Series or host FEI Championships, and that stand alone events and FEI Approved Series take more attention and slowly change the direction of the sport according to their own needs and principles.



The FEI needs to change its commercial policy and involvement in sport events and series to assure their continuation and to allow them to grow freely and become better than their competition.

This new environment, which is also a result of the growth of the sport over the last number of years, has a decisive effect on the role of the FEI and its ability, scope and way of managing the Sport in the future.

In other words, if we want to form a beneficial medium-long term strategy for a sustainable Sport in the future, the first question that has to be answered is : ***“What is the role of the FEI in the future?”***.

Based on the above the way the FEI has to manage the Sport in the future, will be different from what the FEI is doing today. As the general environment around sports, and the equestrian sport in particular, is changing rapidly the FEI will be forced to manage the Sport in a different way.

There is also a prevailing impression, that our governing body and our community are more concerned with day-to-day operations and are missing a medium-long term strategy and vision for our Sport, one that should not be limited only to our given commitment and efforts to remain an Olympic sport.

The RT has made the above findings, but does not think itself as the right forum to answer the question what the future role of the FEI should be.

The RT recommends:

- 10.1 To start a discussion about the future role of the FEI
- 10.2 To implement a structured cooperation between the FEI and its stakeholders for a sports related decision making process
- 10.3 To adopt a clear strategy, based on FEI's (future) role as this is needed for the future of the sport.



11) STRATEGY

The proposed strategy to make the international Jumping sport in Europe **sustainable** comprises the combined implementation of the following 10 goals in the next 5 years:

1. Allow a free market for international events and OCs
2. Create a License system for international events and OCs
3. Create Flagship Events and co-ordinate them to promote the Sport
4. Create a uniform Invitation System combined with a clearer Ranking System for riders and horses
5. Create a new simplified ECS
6. Create conditions and incentives to improve the existing and produce new and efficient Officials
7. Increase FEI's institutional role
8. Increase FEI's involvement to promote the image of the sport and its heroes
9. Stop FEI's own commercial activity
10. Loosen FEI's stronghold on Named Series/Events and allow them to develop in a free market environment

The RT recommends:

- 11.1. To create a Strategy WG in line with above proposals 1.-10.
- 11.2. To create flagship events and coordinate with them the promotion of the equestrian sport values and brand.

12) SOCIAL LICENSE

WHY A SOCIAL LICENSE

We have to look to the holistic “ecosystem” not only in the sport alone.

The public’s calls for a responsible behavior towards the environment and animal welfare are higher than ever before. In fact, it is one of the main measures of the future success of all economic players at all levels (national and international). Those who ignore these actions will be subject to public scrutiny.

Understanding the demands of society and dealing responsible and intelligent with these demands on the environmental and social agenda is a prerequisite for maintaining the **Social License**

*Acceptance of society is essential for sport development and existence.
Responsibility for the EEF is to act proactively.*

STAKEHOLDER ECOSYSTEMS

The diagram illustrates the stakeholder ecosystem for equestrian sport. At the center is a red circle labeled 'Equestrian sport'. This is surrounded by a blue ring containing 'Riders', 'Fans', 'Sponsors', 'NF's', 'National Authorities', 'Organizers', 'EU', 'FEI', and 'EEF'. The outermost layer is a light grey ring labeled 'Society'. Additional stakeholders like 'Animal Rights Activists' and 'Environmentalists' are positioned around the perimeter of the diagram.

Recently the discussion about the need for the equestrian sport to have a "Social License" is becoming more relevant and intense and will also be in 2022 in the center of the discussions about our sport.

But what is a Social License actually and how can we, as an equestrian community, get such a license. The true meaning of a Social License is the acceptance and approval by people not involved in the equestrian sports, that we as practitioners of these sports with horses, exercise the sport in a way that is acceptable in broad layers of the population.

One of the most important aspects of the Social License is Horse Welfare. The way we handle our horses and the image we create with the public, not involved in the equestrian sport, will be one of the most defining elements for a Social License in the future.

The responsibility for exercising sports with horses lies entirely with us, the equestrian community, but do we know how to deal with a real Social License and how we can earn it?

In theory, the way we practice our sports with horses should be the same everywhere. In practice however, this is not the case and the rules are realized and applied differently in countries and societies around the world.

Also, the pressure about how to manage equestrian sports, differs in countries around the world. European NFs for an example have immense social, government and EU attention and pressure, as



well as a huge community to answer to, something which is usually not the case in most other parts of the world.

So, it is justified to assume (a) that obtaining a Social License in Europe is more difficult than it is in the rest of the world, and (b) that a Social License in Europe can be different and more demanding than a social license elsewhere in the world.

What is the Social License “ in reality? The Social License concept in our case can be described as an unwritten ethical and binding understanding between the equestrian community and the “Society“, whereby the “Society“ accepts and appreciates equestrian sports and the way they are practiced by the equestrian community and the equestrian community respects and incorporates the relevant sensitivities of the “Society“. Also the equestrian community is aware of the impact it has on the environment and is prepared to minimize this in a way “Society “ can and will be prepared to accept this approach.

Achieving such an understanding is only possible when the “Society“ acknowledges the equestrian community and sports as an important historic, cultural, business and leisure activity and the positive social impact the equine industry plays in Society. The equestrian community in turn needs continuously informing and educating the “Society“ about equestrian sports, horse welfare and its environmental impact while allowing full access and transparency to its activities.

This understanding is necessary today to gain acceptance, appreciation and support for our sport from the “Society“.

Only when the “Society“ can understand the way the equestrian community is carrying out the equestrian sports, will the equestrian Community and sports enjoy a sustainable future and approval from the “Society“.

Establishing such a relationship with the “Society“ is not a simple matter, as the “Society“ today is monitoring all sports closely, and equestrian sports even more rigorously because they involve animals and has also environmental effects.

To be able to protect our Social License in the future we will have careful monitoring and regulating horse welfare and the effects on the environment of our sport

We also have to keep in mind that, what looks like adequate horse welfare today, may not be enough tomorrow. We have to anticipate in our behaviour that the standards of acceptance from Society may be changed (increased) all the time.

Especially in Europe, where we face a strong control from the “Society“, we have to be alert that we as a community also have to be ready to adjust when the “Society’s“ opinion is changing and that we should probably even be ahead of or form the public perception about our sport and horses. This is only possible when there is a strong cooperation and coordination between the stakeholders in the equestrian community and industry.



We, as the equestrian community, need to have a clear vision about the future of the equestrian sports. This must be a vision of acceptance and growth through dialogue and mutual understanding with the “Society”, thus the Social License is the only way forward for the equestrian community.

The RT recommends:

- 12.1 To have the FEI lead the equestrian world according to set equestrian values and create a clear brand for the equestrian sport which is acceptable for the non-equestrian society
- 12.2 To establish and publish, based on knowledge, proven experience and current research, the very best prerequisites for the well-being of the horse.
- 12.3 To ensure that the used forms of education, training and competition are all within the acceptance of “society”.
- 12.4 To create prerequisites for a sustainable development of the equestrian sport.



13) ANNEX 1: SCOPE AND GOALS

ROUND TABLE discussion
for a sustainable future of the International Equestrian (Jumping) Sport in Europe
organized by the EEF – March 2021

INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE

General

The international sport is only possible when the following three stakeholder categories (in their functions and roles listed below) work together:

1. International/National Federations

1.1 FEI

1.1.1 Institutional

1.1.1.1 IOC

1.1.1.2 Legal/Rules (International licenses and passports, Events' star classification and sanctioning, events' fees, FEI International Calendar, CSI Invitation System, Ranking etc.)

1.1.1.3 Officials (Judges, Stewards, Course Designers, Delegates, Vets etc.)

1.1.1.4 Financial (FEI fees for licenses, passports, events' fees, MCP and other OC's FEI related costs)

1.1.2 Disciplinary (Anti-Doping, Judicial etc.)

1.1.3 Sport

1.1.3.1 FEI Championships

1.1.3.2 FEI Named Series

1.1.4 Commercial/Marketing

1.1.4.1 FEI Named Series

1.1.4.2 FEI Sponsors

1.1.4.3 FEI media and marketing

1.2 National Federations (NFs)

1.2.1 Institutional (FEI, Shows declarations and riders licenses, passports, logistics etc.)

1.2.2 Sport (Teams, Chefs, applications for CSIs/CSIOs, riders nominations, high performance and development programs)

1.2.3 Regulatory (government relations, EU laws, veterinary matters, borders etc.)



2. Event Organizers

2.1 Competitions:

- 2.1.1 FEI Championships (FEI related sponsorship)
- 2.1.2 FEI Named Series (FEI related sponsorship)
- 2.1.3 FEI Approved Series (non-FEI related sponsorship)
- 2.1.4 standalone CSIs/CSIOs (non-FEI related sponsorship)
- 2.1.5 Tours (non-FEI related sponsorship)

2.2 Venues

- 2.2.1 Permanent infrastructures
- 2.2.2 Temporary infrastructures

2.3 CSI/CSIO Invitation System

- 2.3.1 Standard Invitation System for CSIs
- 2.3.2 CSIO invitation system
- 2.3.3 FEI World Cup invitation system
- 2.3.4 GCT/GCL invitation system

3. Rider/horse combinations and owners

3.1 Riders

- 3.1.1 Top International Riders (Ranking 1-150)
- 3.1.2 International Riders (Ranking above 150)
- 3.1.3 Developing and Young Riders

3.2 Horses

- 3.2.1 Championship and 5* horses
- 3.2.2 Upcoming horses
- 3.2.3 Young horses

3.3 Owners

- 3.3.1 Dealing stables
- 3.3.2 Private owners
- 3.3.3 Team owners

Each of the above three stakeholders as a category has its own and distinctive vested interest in the sport, however all three are indispensable and interdependent for the purpose of holding a successful event. This means that each party has to be aware of the importance of the other two and, as such, mutually respect their position. Only good and harmonious co-operation and co-existence of the above three, will attract and reinforce the interest and involvement of the following additional stakeholder categories that are necessary for the growth and future of the sport:

4. Fans



5. **Media**
6. **Sponsors**
7. **Sport core businesses** (apparel, equipment, suppliers, transportation, sport professionals etc.)
8. **Sport interested businesses** (developers, tourism professionals, event organizers etc.)_

The above under 1.- 8. are the active participating stakeholders in the international sport, however, there are other important stakeholders in the society that monitor our sport closely and that we should always keep in mind when discussing the present and future of our sport:

9. **the EU, its laws and its regulatory and veterinary authorities**
10. **the National Governments, their laws and their authorities**
11. **animal well fare organizations and activists**
12. **the IOC**

This concludes a “head-titles analysis” of what represents the structure and building blocks of the international Jumping sport as it was before the COVID-19 pandemic and the EHV-1 virus. It shows a complex, multifactorial, overregulated and, often, overcrowded ecosystem. An ecosystem that over years of significant growth had reached a tipping point, and it was time for a clearer central strategy and framework to assure a sustainable future for all. Nowhere in the equestrian world was this need more present and representative than in Europe where :

- app. 70-80% of the world’s international sport is taking place
- app. 80-90% of the world’s horses are bred, and
- NFs, top sport and grassroot sport and breeding are inseparably interconnected and co-dependent in a way that unavoidably affects both the sport globally and the FEI.

Purpose & Scope of Discussion

The EEF, being the FEI Continental Group representing Europe, is organizing this Round Table discussion with a purpose to evaluate the above and to identify more issues affecting the equestrian sport today internationally and in Europe in particular, to propose comprehensive solutions and to help create solid base for a sustainable future after our sport restarts. The scope of discussion shall include, but not be limited to:

- A. agreeing on a set of core values for the International equestrian sport, such as indicatively :
 - i. animal protection & horse welfare
 - ii. man-horse relationship
 - iii. gender equality
 - iv. higher values & tradition (history, Olympic sport image, nature)
 - v. power & elegance
 - vi. top performance
 - vii. global sport and rules
 - viii. Team OR individual sport
 - ix. Free OR strictly sanctioned market



- B. determining the roles of the governing bodies and stakeholders in international sport by addressing:
 - i. the multiple roles and functions of the FEI
 - ii. the role of Continental Groups and NFs
 - iii. the key role and the obligations of riders
 - iv. the role of owners
 - v. the contributions and the obligations of OCs
 - vi. the value and influence of sponsorship
 - vii. the role and value of media

- C. creating a clear structure and a regulatory framework for the international sport, to address matters like:
 - i. Top Level & Lower Level international sport
 - ii. Championships
 - iii. Team & Individual Competitions
 - iv. Calendar – should we consider having an “International Calendar only for Top Level sport” or maybe “Regional Calendars” instead of a “Global Calendar” ?
 - v. Events’ stars classification and criteria – is there reason to add a “Majors 6*” class ?
 - vi. Invitation System & Ranking System – revisiting both separately and in combination
 - vii. Professional Officials
 - viii. Fees and costs
 - ix. Unsanctioned events – creating and open-minded long term strategy against them

The EEF Round Table comprises an institutional representation of experts assuring a 360% perspective on all matters to be discussed. The EEF realizes the magnitude of the task ahead and is aware that some of the issues raised can prove to be sensitive and political. Having said that, the EEF is convinced that the distinguished members of the Round Table will address all issues in an open-minded, objective and productive manner and will reach conclusions, based always on their genuine conviction of what is BEST FOR THE SPORT.



14) ANNEX 2: WORKING DOCUMENT FOR AMENDMENT OF EXISTING FEI INVITATION SYSTEM

ANNEX V CSI(O) INVITATION RULES

Invitation Rules for CSI2*/CSI3*/CSI4*/CSI5* Events (Worldwide)

The following CSI Invitation Rules will apply to Events taking place as of For Events taking place before this date the 2020 CSI Invitation Rules, published at CSI Invitation Rules, will apply. The following rules apply for all CSI(O)2*/CSI3(O)*/CSI4(O)*/CSI(O)5* Events at which the number of invited Athletes as indicated in the Schedule is restricted. The CSI Invitation Rules do not apply to other categories of CSI Events (e.g. CSI1*, CSI-Am, CSIY, CSIJ etc). For all Events at which the CSI Invitation Rules apply, a certain percentage of Athletes must be invited in descending order of the Longines Ranking, a certain percentage of Athletes are home Athletes selected by the host NF and a certain percentage are Athletes invited by the Organising Committee (OC); the percentages for each invitation group are established for each star level as follows: Event Level Athletes from the Longines Ranking Athletes selected by the host NF

	Longines Ranking	host NF	OC
CSI(O)5*	60%	20%	20%
CSI(O)4*	50%	25%	25%
CSI(O)3*	40%	30%	30%
CSI(O)2*	30%	30%	40%
CSI2* option with no Longines Ranking Competitions (option available only for CSI2* that are combined with CSI3*, 4* or 5*, upon specific request of the OC)	0%	20%	80%

For all Events at which the CSI(O) Invitation Rules apply, the CSI(O) invitation rules will be managed through the FEI online invitation system. Please refer to the "Implementation of the FEI Online Invitation System for Jumping Guidelines" (hereafter referred to as the Implementation Guidelines) which are published on the FEI website for technical details and further information. For each Event the OC/host NF must provide certain details to the FEI at least 12 weeks prior to the week of the Event for the system to manage the CSI Invitation Rules correctly This information must also be included in the Schedule. Refer to the Implementation Guidelines published on the FEI website for further information. Certain events have conditions which will require special settings (e.g. overseas horse transportation); please refer to the Implementation Guidelines published on the FEI website for further information.

In case of CSI(O) events hosting an FEI Jumping World Cup™ competition, Sections 1 – 4 below shall be read and applied in conjunction with Article 654 of the current Rules for FEI Jumping World Cup™. For the avoidance of doubt:

- invitations under Article 654 paras 1.1.1, 1.1.3 and 1.1.4 shall be included in the percentage allocated to invitations according to the Longines Ranking (see above),



- invitations under Article 654 paras 1.1.2 and 1.1.5 shall be included in the percentage allocated to invitations for home Athletes selected by the host NF (see above) and
- invitations under Article 654 para 1.1.6 shall be included to the percentage allocated to invitations of Athletes by the OC (see above).

Section 1 Compulsory Invitations:

Athletes invited in descending order of the Longines Ranking

For the purpose of invitation of Athletes in descending order of the Longines Ranking, the Longines Ranking list established three months prior to the Event is to be used. The OC must indicate in the Schedule the number of the Longines Ranking list which applies for the invitation of Athletes.

1.1. Percentage of Athletes to be selected in descending order of the Longines Ranking

The percentage of Athletes to be invited in descending order of the Longines Ranking depends on the star level of the Event.

The following percentages apply:

CSI5*	60%
CSI4*	50%
CSI3*	40%
CSI2*	30%

CSI2* option with no Longines Ranking competitions

(option available only for CSI2* that are combined with a CSI 3*, 4* or 5*)

No compulsory invitations

Athletes tied on Longines Ranking points will be separated as follows: - Priority will be given to the Athlete who has earned the same amount of points with fewer results. If there is still a tie: - Priority will be given to the Athlete with the greater number of highest points within his/her results counting for the Longines Ranking. If there is still a tie: - Priority will be given to the Athlete with the greater number of highest placings in the Competitions within his/her results counting for the Longines Ranking. If there is still a tie: - Priority will be given to the Athlete with the higher rank on the previous Longines Ranking; if there is still a tie, priority will be given to the Athlete with the higher rank on the preceding Longines Ranking and so on until the tie is broken.

1.2. Individual Jumping gold medal winners Olympic Games and World Championship The individual Jumping gold medal winner of the most recent Olympic Games and the individual Jumping gold medal winner of the most recent World Championship at the time of the reference ranking when applicable for the concerned event, must receive an invitation to all CSIs. These invitations are included in the quota for compulsory invitations established under 1.1, regardless of the position of the individual Jumping gold medal winners on the Longines Ranking. Refer to the Implementation Guidelines published on the FEI website for technical details regarding the timelines, management and confirmation of compulsory invitations.

Section 2 Home Athletes selected by the host NF

2.1. Percentage of home Athletes



The percentage of home Athletes that may be selected by the host NF depends on the star level of the Event. This percentage does not include the home Athletes invited under Section 1: Compulsory Invitations and Section 3: OC Invitations. The following percentages apply:

CSI5*	20%
CSI4*	25%
CSI3*	30%
CSI2*	30%
CSI2* option with no Longines Ranking competitions (option available only for CSI2* that are combined with a CSI 3*, 4* or 5*)	20%

Refer to the Implementation Guidelines published on the FEI website for technical details regarding the timelines, management and confirmation of home Athletes.

Section 3 OC Invitations

3.1. Percentage of OC Invitations

The percentage of Athletes that may be invited by the Organising Committee depends on the star level of the Event. The following percentages apply:

CSI5*	20%
CSI4*	25%
CSI3*	30%
CSI2*	40%
CSI2* option with no Longines Ranking competitions (option available only for CSI2* combined with a CSI 3*, 4* or 5*)	80%

Refer to the Implementation Guidelines published on the FEI website for technical details regarding the timelines, management and confirmation of OC invitations.

Section 4 FEI Invitations for Foreign athletes or home athletes domiciled outside the home country

The FEI has the right to allocate an invitation to two Athletes for CSI2*/CSI3*/CSI4* events and one athlete for CSI5* events. For CSI3* Events that are on the list of qualifiers for the Olympic Games published on the FEI website, the FEI has the right to allocate a third FEI invitation to an Athlete attempting to earn a Certificate of Capability for the Olympic Games. The FEI invitations are included in the quota for compulsory invitations established under Section 1.1. The level of the nominated athlete must be of the required standard for the Event in question. OCs must accept the entries of Athletes to whom the FEI has allocated an FEI invitation. The maximum number of times an athlete can be nominated during the same season for this section is three.

Section 5 Timeline for Declaration of Horses

Refer to the Implementation Guidelines published on the FEI website for technical details regarding the timeline for declaration of horses.



Section 6 General

NFs are responsible for entering qualified Horses and Athletes. This includes the fitness and capability of the Horses and the Athletes to participate in the Competitions for which they are entered. (JRs Art. 251.4) Refer to GRs Art. 115.1 for details relating to remuneration in exchange for an invitation to an Event and appearance fees. OCs will be permitted to invite a limited number of additional Athletes if, at the closing of entries, the maximum number of Horses that may be entered has not been reached. If no qualification system for the Grand Prix is foreseen in the Schedule, the OC may not invite additional Athletes in excess of the maximum allowed to take part in the Grand Prix. These additional Athletes are not taken into consideration for the calculation of the percentages of Athletes to be invited under Sections 1-3. OCs may invite a limited number of additional Athletes only for the small and/or medium tour Competitions at their Event; Athletes invited only for the small and/or medium tour Competitions are not included in the total number of Athletes used for the calculation of percentages for the invitation of Athletes under sections 1-3, and may not participate in any Competitions counting for the Longines Ranking. The Horses of Athletes invited for the small/medium tour Competitions are not counted in the maximum number of Horses that may be entered for the CSI; if any of the Athletes invited for the small/medium tour Competitions do not enter the maximum number of Horses permitted per Athlete, the OC may not invite additional Athletes for the CSI to fill the vacant stable places of small/medium tour Horses. OCs of CSI2*/3*/4*/5* Events that are part of "Tours" (multiple Events run on consecutive weekends at the same venue) at which the number of Athletes to be invited is limited must respect the CSI Invitation Rules. OCs of Tours that run over consecutive weeks overlapping from one month to another may use the Longines Ranking established three months prior to the first Event of the Tour for the invitation of Athletes under Section 1 for all Events of the Tour and may give priority to Athletes who have accepted the invitation to all Events of the Tour. Alternatively, OCs of Tours that overlap from one month to another may use the Longines Ranking established three months prior to the start of the respective Events of the Tour for the invitation of Athletes under Section 1 for each Event. Refer to the Implementation Guidelines published on the FEI website for technical details regarding the FEI online invitation system.

National events

OCs that wish to organise a National Event must comply with the FEI rules for National Events. These include the restrictions on the number of foreign Athletes and the number of NFs represented by Athletes.

Sanctions and consequences

If prior to an Event it is known that the Event will not follow the FEI technical conditions and the CSI Invitation Rules, the Event may be removed from the FEI calendar at the discretion of the FEI.

The following fines will be imposed on Organising Committees not respecting the CSI Invitation Rules:

1st offence CHF 20'000.-; 2nd offence CHF 40'000.- ; at the 3rd offence, the Event will not be permitted to take place.

These fines will be payable directly by the Organising Committees concerned to the FEI. If sufficient proof can be established after the Event that the FEI technical conditions and the CSI Invitation Rules have not been respected, CSI status may be refused for the following season. An Athlete and/or



Horse, even if registered with the FEI, is not eligible to participate in an International Event or National Event (and so may not be invited by an OC to such Event or entered by an NF in such Event) if that Athlete and/or Horse has participated, in the six months prior to the first day of the International Event or National Event in question, in an Unsanctioned Event (see GRs Art. 113.4).



FEI JUMPING RULES

CHAPTER X ATHLETES AND HORSES

ARTICLE 249 INVITATIONS TO CSIOs and CSIs with Team Competitions

1. The official invitation sent to the NF (for CSIOs) or to a team (for CSIs with Team Competitions) must be extended to an official team comprising a Chef d'Equipe/Team Manager, a Team Veterinarian (for CSIOs), a minimum of three (four for CSIOs) and a maximum of six Athletes, a minimum of six (eight for CSIOs) and a maximum of 15 Horses and one groom per Athlete. The total number of Athletes in Official teams in a CSI(O) shall represent at a maximum 70% of the total number of athletes in the event.

2. For CSIOs

2.1. If OCs invite teams consisting of four Athletes and eight Horses the total number of invited foreign Athletes cannot be less than the number invited the previous year. Three official teams at least (including that of the host NF) must participate for the Event to be considered as a CSIO. If less than five NFs have entered teams for a CSIO, the invitation may be extended to include two teams per NF (including the host team). Before the start of the Event, at the latest at the technical meeting, each NF with two teams must decide which team competes for FEI Nations Cup™ points.

2.2. CSIO Events in Europe

If eight or more teams are invited (host team included), the OC may invite foreign individual Athletes in accordance with JRs Art. 249.5. If seven or less teams are invited (host team included), no foreign individual Athletes may be invited.

2.3. CSIO Events in North America

2.3.1 If five or more teams are invited (host team included), foreign individual Athletes may be invited in accordance with JRs Art. 249.5. The following is applicable specifically to CSIO Events in Canada, Mexico and the United States of America at which five or more teams are invited: The number of individual Athletes that the OC of a CSIO in Canada, Mexico, respectively the United States of America, may invite from each of the other two NFs in addition to the official teams, is not limited to two per NF. The number of individual Athletes that the OC of a CSIO in Canada, Mexico, respectively the United States of America, may invite from each of the other two NFs in addition to the official teams may not exceed ten; the exact number must be indicated in the Schedule and must be the same for each of these NFs.

2.3.2 If four teams are invited (host team included), only a maximum of two foreign individual Athletes may be invited.

2.3.3 If there are less than four teams invited (host team included), no foreign individual Athletes may be invited.

2.4. In the draft Schedule, each OC will be required to mention the names of NFs to be invited, plus the names of at least three reserve NFs, in case any of those invited cannot accept the invitation. Upon receipt of a refusal, the OC must contact immediately one of the NFs on the reserve list. It is recommended that each OC uses double entry dates for nominated entries, in case invited NFs drop out. The OCs of events that are part of the FEI Nations Cup™ series must invite teams in accordance with the specific rules for that series.

2.5. At the discretion of the Organising Committee, up to five individual Athletes per NF, in addition to those belonging to the teams or to NFs which cannot send a complete team, may be invited under



the same conditions as the official teams. Personal invitations are allowed for individuals at CSIO Events.

2.6. The maximum number of individual Athletes of the host NF allowed to compete in CSIOs of all categories (with the exclusion of FEI Nations Cup™ Division 1 Events) is 30; the maximum number of Athletes in the official Teams is six.

2.7. CSIO Events with a 5*/4* Nations Cup, must at least invite seven foreign teams. Only in very exceptional circumstances and with the express permission of the FEI Secretary General, may fewer foreign teams be invited.

2.8. FEI Wildcards

2.8.1. The FEI has the right to nominate one of the foreign teams to be invited by the OC as a wild card except for FEI Nations Cup™ Europe Division 1 qualifying Events, the Longines EEF Series events.

2.8.2. The FEI has the right to nominate two individual athletes from NF(s) not represented by a team as wild cards. If the FEI does not allocate one or both of these wild cards, the places are returned to the OC which may extend the vacant place(s) to NF(s) not represented by a team.

3. For CSIs with Team Competition

3.1. OCs of Events with Team Competitions that are part of a series or that are standalone events, invite official teams consisting of Athletes and Horses according to their draft Schedule and as per para 1. above. Three official teams at least must participate for the Event to be considered as a Team Competition.

3.2. In the draft Schedule, each OC will be required to mention the names of the official teams to be invited, plus the names of at least three reserve teams, in case any of those invited cannot accept the invitation. Upon receipt of a refusal, the OC may contact one of the official teams on the reserve list. It is recommended that each OC uses double entry dates for nominated entries, in case invited official teams drop out. The OCs of events that are part of a series must invite teams in accordance with the specific rules for that series.

3.3. If eight or more teams are invited by the OC, individual Athletes may be invited in accordance with ANNEX V Invitation Rules CSI(O).

3.4. Personal invitations are allowed for individuals at CSI Events with Team Competitions.

3.5. The maximum number of individual Athletes of the host NF allowed to compete in CSIs with Team Competitions of all categories is 30; the maximum number of Athletes in the official Teams is six.

3.6. FEI Wildcards: The FEI has the right to nominate two individual athletes not represented by an official team as wild cards. If the FEI does not allocate one or both of these wild cards, the places are returned to the OC which may extend the vacant place(s) to individual riders not in an official team.