



Annual Ordinary EEF General Assembly 2026
Application Form for the position of
EEF President and/or EEF Ordinary Director (Board member)

PERSONAL INFORMATION	
Name, Surname	Justus Valk
Phone	+31646408815
Email	j.valk@knhs.nl
Nationality	The Netherlands
Date of birth	03-08-1990
National Federation (NF) of the candidate	KNHS

With this document I apply for the position(s) of:

☐

EEF President

for term 2026-2030

☒

EEF Ordinary Director (Board member)

for term 2026-2030

The candidate can mark more than one positions.

MOTIVATION AND VISION
Motivation for serving at EEF
I would like to serve on the Board of the European Equestrian Federation because I strongly believe in the value of European cooperation in equestrian sport. The EEF plays an important role in bringing National Federations together, creating opportunities to share knowledge and best practices, and supporting the continued development of our sport across Europe. The challenges and opportunities facing equestrian sport increasingly transcend national borders. Issues such as horse welfare, social licence to operate, integrity, sustainability, participation growth and the development of future generations of athletes, officials and volunteers require collaboration and a shared vision. The EEF is uniquely positioned to help National Federations address these topics collectively and strengthen the sport throughout Europe. I am particularly motivated by the EEF's commitment to supporting both established and developing National Federations and to fostering a strong and united European equestrian community. By encouraging cooperation, facilitating the exchange of expertise and promoting common standards, the EEF can help ensure that equestrian sport remains accessible, relevant and future-oriented. The EEF also has an increasingly important role in ensuring that equestrian sport remains socially relevant and widely accepted. By working together on topics such as horse welfare, integrity, sustainability and good governance, National Federations can strengthen both the sport itself and public confidence in the values it represents.



Serving on the EEF Board would provide an opportunity to contribute to these objectives and support the continued development of a strong, sustainable and respected equestrian community across Europe.

Vision for the EEF:

I believe the European Equestrian Federation should further strengthen its role as a practical and effective platform for cooperation between National Federations. The EEF can create added value by identifying shared priorities, connecting expertise and helping federations translate common ambitions into concrete initiatives.

The diversity of European equestrian sport is one of its greatest strengths. National Federations differ in size, resources, sporting traditions and stages of development. The EEF should recognise these differences while ensuring that all federations feel represented, supported and able to contribute. This requires an inclusive approach in which federations learn from one another and solutions can be adapted to different national circumstances.

I see particular opportunities for cooperation in education, talent development, the development of officials and volunteers, competition structures and the exchange of knowledge and best practices. By coordinating initiatives and making successful approaches more widely available, the EEF can help National Federations develop their organisations and increase their impact.

The EEF should also provide clear European leadership on developments that influence the future of the sport. This means following societal and sporting developments closely, facilitating open discussion between National Federations and representing shared European interests effectively within the wider international equestrian community.

My vision is for an EEF that is inclusive, forward-looking and action-oriented: an organisation that listens to its members, turns shared priorities into practical cooperation and helps create the conditions for equestrian sport to thrive across Europe for generations to come.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Sports Career / Equestrian Background

My involvement in equestrian sport began at a young age and has developed into a lifelong commitment to the sport in different capacities. Over the years, I have been active as an athlete, instructor and examiner, giving me experience across several levels of the equestrian community, from grassroots participation to international competition.

As a competitor, I have competed in dressage up to national advanced level, show jumping up to 1.35m and eventing up to CCI 3*-L level. I was a member of the Dutch Junior and Young Rider Eventing Teams and represented the Netherlands at the European Eventing Championships for Young Riders in Pardubice(CZ) in 2010. Highlights of my competitive career include becoming Dutch Champion with a six-year-old eventing horse in 2018 and winning the CCI 2*-S in Haras de Jardy (FR) in 2020.

Education and athlete development have also been important aspects of my involvement in the sport. After completing the Dutch ORUN instructor qualifications(Level 4), I became active as an instructor and trainer, supporting riders at different stages of their development. Since 2019, I have been involved in instructor education for the Royal Dutch Equestrian Federation, and since 2024 I have served as an ORUN examiner, assessing future instructors in riding ability, coaching skills and equestrian knowledge.

These experiences have given me a broad understanding of equestrian sport at different levels, from rider and instructor education to talent development and international competition. They

have also given me direct insight into the importance of well-trained professionals and accessible development pathways for the future of the sport.

Professional career/Work experience

Since 2014, I have been co-owner of De Hollandsche Manege in Amsterdam, one of the oldest operating riding schools in the world and a unique national heritage site. What began as a traditional riding school has evolved into a multifaceted organisation that combines equestrian sport, education, culture, tourism and events. As co-owner, I have been responsible for both the strategic direction and daily management of the organisation, leading its development into a financially sustainable and socially relevant institution. During this period, I founded the Living Horse Museum Foundation, which achieved recognised museum and charitable status, and helped establish De Hollandsche Manege as both a prominent equestrian venue and a valued cultural landmark in Amsterdam. Through this work, I have gained extensive experience in leadership, financial management, stakeholder engagement, team development and long-term strategic planning.

Alongside my professional activities, I have been actively involved within the Royal Dutch Equestrian Federation (KNHS) in various governance and advisory roles, including as a member and later Chair of the Eventing Forum, member of the Members Council and member of the Confidential Committee. These positions provided valuable experience in policy development, stakeholder representation and decision-making within a member-based sporting organisation. I currently serve as Manager Sport at the Royal Dutch Equestrian Federation (KNHS), where I am responsible for the development and implementation of sport policy, regulations, competition structures and strategic projects across multiple disciplines. My work includes the modernisation of regulations and competition frameworks, talent development, support for officials, organisers and volunteers, and initiatives related to horse welfare, integrity, governance and digitalisation. In this role, I work closely with athletes, officials, clubs, organisers, volunteers, discipline representatives and external partners to strengthen equestrian sport and prepare it for future challenges.

Throughout my career, I have worked at the intersection of sport, education, entrepreneurship and governance. This combination of experiences has provided me with a broad understanding of equestrian sport from the perspectives of federations, clubs, riding schools, organisers, volunteers, athletes and horse owners, while also developing strong skills in leadership, organisational development and stakeholder management

REFERENCES AND ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

List of references and the additional document provided by the candidate:

1. www.dehollandschemanege.nl
2.
3.
4.

DECLARATION

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that the information provided in this application form is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that providing false information may result in disqualification from the selection process.

I acknowledge and accept the terms, requirements and job description of the EEF for the open positions and I am committed to upholding the principles and values of the European Equestrian Federation.

Date and signature of the candidate:

7-9-2026

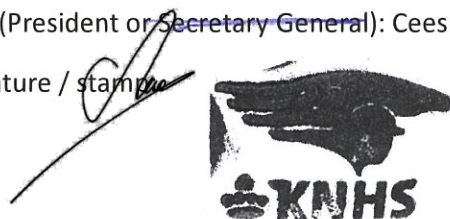
APPROVAL & SUPPORT OF THE NF

Name of the National Federation: Royal Dutch Equestrian Federation

Name of the person signing on behalf of the NF:

Title (President or Secretary General): Cees Roozemon

Signature / stamp

The signature of Cees Roozemon is written in blue ink over a black ink stamp. The stamp is the logo of the Koninklijke Nederlandse Hippische Sportbond (KNHS), featuring a stylized horse head and the letters 'KNHS'.

Please submit the completed application form, along with any supporting documents, to the EEF Secretary General on secretarygeneral@euroequestrian.eu by **7th of September 2026 at 23:59 CET**.



ANNEX I - NONDISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Name: Justus Velth
National Federation: Royal Dutch federation

“Confidential Information” shall include but not be limited to any and all specifications, commercial and technical or non-technical data, contracts or other agreements, financials, business plans and analysis, drawings, product and service concepts and configurations, marketing proposals, documentation, or other technical or business information in relation to the EEF business, which is marked with an indicator such as “Confidential” or identified as such by the president and/or secretary general, but excluding information which:

- is or comes into the public domain otherwise than by disclosure or default by the member;
- was or is lawfully obtained or available from a third party who was lawfully in possession of the same and free to disclose it; or
- was already known to the member as evidenced by written record pre-dating such disclosure.

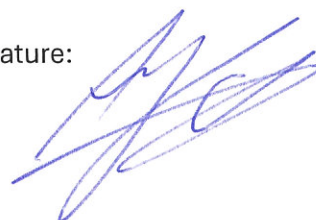
The EEF Director will not disclose any confidential Information to third-parties other than persons under appropriate burden of confidentiality and who are required to have the information in order to carry out the discussions regarding the EEF. The Director will take all reasonable measures and such measures shall include the highest degree of care to protect the secrecy of and avoid disclosure or use of confidential information in order to prevent it from falling into the public or the possession of persons other than those persons authorised to have any such information.

I will notify the president and the secretary general in writing of any misuse or request of disclosure of confidential information, which may come to the my attention.

I have read and understood this responsibility acceptance and accept the responsibilities and constraints listed above. I recognise that I might be removed or suspended from the position for which I was elected if I do not comply with these responsibilities and constraints.

Date: 7-9-2026

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. Velth', is written over the signature line.

ANNEX II – POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

1. Do you or a member of your immediate family transact business with or provide services to the EEF, one of its National Federations, an organiser of EEF Series and/or events, and/or a sponsor of such Events? Please list the relevant entities or persons below and describe the dealings. If none, please state “none”.

In my professional capacity as Manager Sport at the Royal Dutch Equestrian Federation (KNHS), I am involved in sporting and organisational matters related to EEF activities and events. This involvement is solely part of my responsibilities on behalf of the KNHS and does not involve any personal commercial or financial interest.

2. Are you or a member of your immediate family an officer, partner, director, trustee, owner (in the case of public companies, of at least 5% of total equity), beneficial owner, consultant or employee of any person or entity that does business with or provides services to the EEF, one of its National Federations, an organiser of EEF Series and/or events, and/or a sponsor of such events? Please list the relevant entities or persons below and describe the dealings. If none, please state “none”.

I am employed by the Royal Dutch Equestrian Federation (KNHS), an EEF National Federation, as Manager Sport. This is a salaried management position. I have no ownership or other personal financial interest in the KNHS or EEF.

I understand that during my term I am required to update this disclosure promptly if my circumstances change. Failure to provide complete and accurate information, or failure to update this disclosure when required, may result in my removal from the relevant EEF body.

Date: 09-09-2026

Signature:

