

FEI BOARD MEETING

Lausanne (SUI), 18 November 2020

The main resolutions taken by the FEI Board at its video conference meeting on 18 November 2020 as part of the online FEI General Assembly are summarised below:

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COVID-19

Update by the FEI Medical Chair

The Chair of the FEI Medical Committee Dr Mark Hart gave an update on the Covid-19 situation referring to the second wave of the pandemic and the advent of highly effective vaccines awaiting approval. Although new restrictions are likely to be imposed to varying degrees around the world, he does not foresee any changes to the FEI Return to Play policy which is designed to supplement local regulations.

The Board was also provided a brief update on the preparation of protocols for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in order to help National Federations anticipate the testing environment for teams (athletes and extended support personnel) in the lead-up to and during the Games. And lastly, he referred to the IOC's recent announcement regarding potential support for all athletes and support personnel attending the Tokyo Games in the procurement of vaccines, if this could be arranged, in order to decrease potential disruption.

Rules Derogations and Board Resolutions

The FEI Board approved new Resolutions as well as extensions to Resolutions that have been taken since March 2020 and with a cut-off date before and/or after 31 December 2020. A number of these are **Emergency Board Resolutions*** and National Federations have until **19 December 2020** if they wish to signify their disapproval of any of the below Emergency Resolutions.

*** Emergency Board Resolution:** *A Resolution taken by the FEI Board as per Article 20.3 of the FEI Statutes, whereby in an Emergency Situation the Board may, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of votes cast, pass Resolutions which are normally the prerogatives of the General Assembly. National Federations are informed of all Emergency Resolutions and those eligible to vote have up to 30 days of the date of the notice to declare their disapproval by contacting the FEI Director Governance & Institutional Affairs at Francisco.Lima@fei.org. All the deadlines are clearly provided with each Resolution. An Emergency Situation is defined in the Statutes as a serious situation or occurrence that happens unexpectedly and clearly requires immediate action.*

Multi-Disciplinary

***Emergency Board Resolution - FEI Officials**

Due to the impossibility for many Organisers to fulfil the requirements regarding FEI Officials at their Events, the FEI Board mandated FEI Headquarters, **until further notice**, to decide on a case-by-case basis and in consultation with the Technical Committees, a derogation of the applicable FEI Rules & Regulations regarding the necessary FEI Officials at a given competition.

Any derogations to be made will be based on a Policy to be established by the FEI Headquarters.

Jumping

***Emergency Board Resolution - Derogation to Jumping Rules regarding the number of starters allowed in the Grand Prix at CSI4* and CSI5* Events**

The Board approved temporary derogations from Jumping Rules Annex VI and Article 254.6 **until further notice**, as follows:

- Jumping Rules, Annex VI, Art. 1 CSI Requirements Worldwide: Maximum ~~50~~**60** starters in the Grand Prix at CSI4* and maximum ~~50~~**55** starters in the Grand Prix at CSI5* Events; and
- Jumping Rules, Article 254.6: CSI4*/CSI5*: If there are 25 starters or less, each Athlete may ride two Horses (~~maximum 50 in the Grand Prix~~).

Board Resolution - Jumping Calendar: Prioritising CSIOs (Extension to Board Resolution of 7 April 2020)

The Board agreed to continue prioritising, **until further notice**, all CSIOs when date clashes are being considered, regardless of whether they are standalone Events or part of a Series, to allow for team preparation in the build-up to the Olympic Games next year.

Dressage

***Emergency Board Resolution - Derogation to FEI Dressage Rules regarding events preceding the FEI European Championships 2021, Article 420.9**

Similar to the decision taken regarding Article 200.8 of the FEI Jumping Rules, the Board agreed to a temporary derogation from Article 420.9 of the FEI Dressage Rules to allow FEI World Cup™ Dressage Competitions, CDI/CDIO5* or CDI/CDIO4* Events already in the FEI Calendar to be held in the two weeks prior to the FEI European Championships in Hagen (GER) on 7-12 September 2021.

Board Resolution - Dressage Calendar: Prioritising CDIOs (Extension to Board Resolution of 27 April 2020)

The Board agreed to continue prioritising, **until further notice**, all CDIOs when date clashes are being considered, regardless of whether they are standalone Events or part of a Series, to allow for team preparation in the build-up to the Olympic Games in 2021.

Para Dressage

***Emergency Board Resolution - Para Dressage Classifiers: Waiver to Article 8439.1 (Extension to Emergency Board Resolution of 10 September 2020)**

The Board mandated, **until further notice**, FEI Headquarters to decide on a case-by-case basis and only as long as an Organiser is affected by the Covid-19 situation, to waive the obligation of Article 8439.1 of the FEI Para Dressage Rules which requires all CPEDI3* and FEI Championships to have two FEI Para Equestrian Classifiers present, and one classifier must be from a foreign National Federation.

Should this waiver be granted, the Organiser could accept only Para Dressage Athletes with a confirmed status and Para Dressage Athletes with a review date due which expires after the event.

Board Resolution - Para Equestrian Classification opportunities (Extension to Board Resolution of 5 May 2020)

Based on the recommendation of the FEI Head Classifier, and **until further notice**, the Board agreed to reduce the time of application for classification from six to four weeks prior to the Event.

Board Resolution - Classification Panel: One Classifier Present

In cases where an Organiser is unable to find two Classifiers for a Classification Panel, the FEI Board agreed, on the recommendation of the FEI Classification Working Group and the Para Equestrian Committee, to allow, **until further notice**, a temporary derogation of Article 11.3 of the FEI Para Equestrian Classification Rules whereby one Level 2 Classifier could carry out Classification Evaluations alone. It is recommended that a second Classifier join by video call wherever possible.

Board Resolution - Classification Status Allocation

The FEI Board approved a Classification Working Group recommendation that, **until further notice**, where the Rules only allow a "Review" status to be allocated (see Articles 10.5.3, 15.6 and 15.15 of the FEI Para Equestrian Classification Rules), that a "Review with Fixed Review Date" status can also be allocated, or "Confirmed" only in cases where it is absolutely clear. The allocation of a status in any case must always be confirmed by the FEI Classification Working Group. This would also be in place if only one Classifier is physically present (with or without another joining by video call).

Board Resolution - Time Frame for Review with a Fixed Review Date

The FEI Board approved a Classification Working Group recommendation to allow Athletes with a Fixed Review Date to apply for their review to take place prior to the Review date. The FEI Classification Working Group would decide on a case-by-case basis, with detailed justification for or against allowing an Athlete a Review before their date. Applications must be sent in at least four weeks in advance, as for standard Classification requests. The Board agreed not to fix a time limit on this, as each Athlete's situation is different.

Eventing

***Emergency Board Resolution - Proposed derogation for Foreign Officials at FEI Eventing CCI4*-L and CCI3*-L (Extension to Emergency Board Resolution of 10 September 2020)**

The Board agreed to prolong and clarify the derogation for Foreign Officials at FEI CCI4*-L and CCI3*-L until **1 July 2021** under the conditions that FEI Level 3 Officials are appointed, and the CCI4* will not count for obtaining MERs for the Olympic Games.

Other requirements are:

- For CCI4*-L competitions a Foreign Judge must be appointed and the Level of the Official be selected according to the Eventing Rules requirements for MERs obtained to count for the Olympic Games.
- Should it not be possible to appoint a Foreign Judge due to Covid-19 travel restrictions; all three Judges must be appointed from the FEI Level 3 List of Eventing Judges. This event will then count for Olympic Confirmation results and regular MER results.
- CCI4*-S competitions: Foreign Judge requirement not compulsory if two Judges are on the FEI Level 3 List of Eventing Judges. MER obtained will count for the Olympic Games, Olympic Confirmation results and regular MER results.
- CCI3*-L competitions: Foreign Judge requirement not compulsory if two Judges are on the FEI Level 3 List of Eventing Judges. This event will then count for regular MER results.

***Emergency Board Resolution - Eventing Calendar – Date Clash Rules (Extension to Emergency Board Resolution of 27 April 2020)**

The Board approved to extend the Resolution taken on 27 April 2020, until the situation is deemed to have returned to normal, as follows:

- CCI4* Short Format and below: no Date Clash Rules apply.
- CCI4* Long Format and above: review of date clashes will be done on a case-by-case basis once applications and/or modifications are received from National Federations.

Board Resolution - Eventing Calendar: 5* Events 2020 (Extension to Board Resolution of 27 April 2020)

The FEI Board approved the postponement of increased minimum prize money for CCI5*, included in the Eventing Rules for 2020 and onwards, **until the situation is deemed to have returned to normal.**

Board Resolution - FEI Eventing Nations Cup™ 2020: Revised Rules and Calendar (Extension to Board Resolution of 21 July 2020)

The Board approved the Eventing Committee recommendation that should one or more FEI Nations Cup™ legs not be organised in 2021 due to the Covid-19 situation, results for the final classification would be based on the number of legs taking place during 2021. Classification will be calculated as per below:

- If all legs are organised minus one result (as per regular rules as one leg does not take place in Europe).
- If less than five legs, all results to count (if all take place in Europe).
- If less than three Events are held: the team results for the CCIOs organised would be included to count for the following year's FEI Nations Cup™ 2022 classification.

Emergency Board Resolution - Athlete Categorisation (Extension to Emergency Board Resolution from 21 July 2020)

In line with the recommendation of the FEI Eventing Committee, the FEI Board agreed not to extend the period of Athlete categorisation beyond 8.5 years for 2021, as approximately 300 Eventing Events took place between July and December 2020. The Eventing Risk Management policy is based on the necessity for Athletes to maintain competition experience to ensure competence.

Endurance

***Emergency Board Resolution - Extension of Endurance Process and Validity Periods - (Extension to Emergency Board Resolution of 20 October 2020)**

The FEI Board approved the extension to **30 June 2021** of the Endurance qualification processes and qualification validity periods. This applies as below:

- Extend the CEI level qualification process for participation at Events.
- Extend the period to maintain Elite Status.
- Extend the Athlete/Horse Novice Qualification process.

For the avoidance of any doubt, the measure already taken on 20 October 2020 to extend from 33 to 36 months the validity of the following, remains in place:

- Extend the validity of qualifications for all Endurance Horses.
- Extend the validity of Novice qualifications for Athletes and Horses.

***Emergency Board Resolution – FEI Endurance Rules (Extension to Emergency Board Resolution of 24 June 2020)**

The FEI Board approved the extension to **30 June 2021** of staggered starts at CEI 2* and 3*. For the avoidance of any doubt, staggered starts do not apply to Championships.

***Emergency Board Resolution – Longines FEI Endurance World Championship 2020, San Rossore, Italy (Extension to Emergency Board Resolution of 19 June 2020)**

The FEI Board agreed to extend the qualifications period for the World Endurance Championship 2020 in San Rossore (ITA) on 22 May 2021, to 36 months, which means that the qualifying results will count from 5 April 2018 till 5 April 2021.

***Emergency Board Resolution – Endurance Calendar: Date Clash Rules (Extension to Emergency Board Resolution of 5 May 2020)**

The FEI Board agreed to continue the suspension of the Date Clash Rule for CEIs during the 2021 calendar year, with the exception of those Events serving as Test Events for future FEI Championships, which will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Vaulting

***Emergency Board Resolution - FEI Championships Senior and Junior 2021: Qualification procedure and certificates of capability**

The FEI Board agreed to waive the qualification requirements for the 2021 Senior and Junior Championships.

***Emergency Board Resolution - Temporary Rules Amendments (Extension to Emergency Board Resolution of 10 September 2020)**

The Board approved, **until further notice**, the continuation of derogations from the Vaulting Rules:

- Article 701.7: Organisers should not be obliged to organise Squad competitions. The FEI recommends not to host Squad competitions at any level and in any category.
- Article 703.2.2: Regarding the qualification procedure and given the very low number of CVIs in the FEI Calendar in 2020, this year should not count and an extension of 12 months (36 months instead of 24 months) will be given to confirm a qualification score. This amendment will be revised in 2021 for 2022.

***Emergency Board Resolution - FEI Officials: Article 723.1.4 (Extension to Emergency Board Resolution of 10 September 2020)**

The FEI Board mandated FEI Headquarters to decide, **until further notice** and on a case-by-case basis, only as long as an Organiser is affected by the Covid-19 situation, to waive the obligation of Article 723.1.1 of the Vaulting Rules according to which all CVI2* events and above must have at least three (3) to four (4) FEI Judges and Foreign Judges.

Veterinary

Board Resolution - Veterinary Regulations (Extension to Board Resolution of 15 April 2020)

The FEI Board approved the extension until **30 June 2021** of the derogation from Article 1087.2 of the Veterinary Regulations to allow for ponies newly registered as of 1 January 2020 to be able to compete without an FEI height certificate.

APPOINTMENT OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Chair for the FEI Nominations Committee Nayla Stössel (SUI) provided an overview on the candidacies received for the 18 vacancies. Thirty-six applications were received for the 10 vacant positions to be decided by the FEI Board, while a total of 13 candidates applied for the eight vacant positions to be elected by the General Assembly.

The FEI Board approved the following appointments to the FEI Technical Committees:

FEI Jumping Committee

Diane Baxter (RSA) was appointed as a member of the FEI Jumping Committee for the four-year term 2020-2024, replacing outgoing member Kazuya Hirayama (JPN).

FEI Dressage Committee

Monica Theodorescu (GER) was appointed as a member of the FEI Dressage Committee for the four-year term 2020-2024, replacing outgoing member George Williams (USA).

FEI Eventing Committee

Pierre Le Goupil (FRA) was appointed as a member of the FEI Eventing Committee for the four-year term 2020-2024, replacing outgoing member Lars Christensson (SWE).

FEI Driving Committee

Benjamin Aillaud (FRA) was appointed as a member of the FEI Driving Committee for the four-year term 2020-2024, replacing outgoing member Boyd Exell (AUS).

FEI Vaulting Committee

Dietmar Otto (GER) was appointed as a member of the FEI Vaulting Committee for the four-year term 2020-2024, replacing outgoing member Kai Vorberg (GER).

FEI Para Equestrian Committee

Joyce Heutink (NED) was appointed as a member of the FEI Para Equestrian Committee for the four-year term 2020-2024, replacing outgoing member Hanneke Gerritsen (NED).

Endurance Committee

The appointment of the Endurance Committee members has been deferred to Board Meeting II on 25 November 2020 after the election of the Chair of the Endurance Committee by the FEI General Assembly (23 November), as several candidates have also applied for the position of Chair.

JUMPING

The FEI Board approved some clarifications to the Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ Rules 2021, which will shortly be published [here](#), and the technical modifications to the Global Champions League (GCL) Rules 2021 and the Longines Global Champions Tour (GCT) Rules 2021. The Board's final approval of GCL and GCT Rules 2021 will be requested once the 2021 prize money has been confirmed, at the latest by the end of January 2021. The GCT and GCL Rules will be published in due course on the FEI website [here](#).

The Board also approved updates to the rules for the Longines Rankings Jumping Calculation for 2021 lists, which will shortly be published [here](#). The Board was advised that the Longines Rankings Working Group will meet again in early 2021 to review the parameters for bringing the Ranking calculation methodology back to normal in the post-Covid-19 impacted calendar. The agreed system will then be shared with other disciplines that have a similar 12-month rolling rankings, as these are also currently frozen.

The Board was advised of proposed amendments to the Jumping Rules, which will be voted on at the FEI General Assembly on 23 November 2020.

DRESSAGE

The Board approved amendments to the Rules of the FEI Dressage Nations Cup™ 2021 and the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Western European League 2021-2022. The series Rules will be published in due course on the FEI website [here](#).

The Board were advised of proposed amendments to the Dressage Rules, which will be voted on at the FEI General Assembly on 23 November 2020.

The Board was informed of two petitions regarding Article 140 of the FEI General Regulations on Protective Headgear. This was voted in by National Federations at the FEI General Assembly 2019 and will require Dressage athletes to wear protective headgear at all times at FEI events as of 1 January 2021.

An athletes' petition, sent to the FEI by the President of the International Dressage Riders' Club (IDRC), requests to maintain the option to use top hats in senior international competitions and urged the FEI to table it for discussion at the FEI General Assembly 2020. A second petition from a group of physicians calls for the Rule to be implemented as planned at the start of 2021. The FEI has also received unsolicited support for the Protective Headgear Rule from a number of other athletes.

As the FEI did not receive any request for change during the lengthy 2020 rules consultation process, neither from the IDRC nor National Federations, the item has not been included on the FEI General Assembly 2020 agenda for a vote.

The FEI Board discussed the issue and, although this rule has already been approved at last year's General Assembly and is not an FEI Board decision, voted unanimously to maintain implementation on 1 January 2021. The FEI Board support for the General Assembly decision was based on safety grounds, the fact that a full consultation process had been conducted prior to the vote at the 2019 General Assembly, and that there is a clear and transparent process for Rules revision.

PARA DRESSAGE

The Board was advised of proposed amendments to the FEI Para Dressage Rules, which will be voted on at the FEI General Assembly on 23 November 2020.

EVENTING

The Board welcomed the possible addition of a seventh CCI5*-L competition in Fairhill (USA) for 2021. The Eventing Committee has approved the 5* requirements for the Event and the FEI Secretary General will formally approve its inclusion when the FEI Calendar is finalised next month.

The Board approved the 2021 calendar, points system and prize money for the Tri-Star Grand Slam Eventing Series.

The Board was also advised of proposed amendments to the FEI Eventing Rules, which will be voted on at the FEI General Assembly on 23 November 2020.

ENDURANCE

The Board was advised of proposed amendments to the FEI Endurance Rules, which will be voted on at the FEI General Assembly on 23 November 2020.

DRIVING & PARA DRIVING

The Board was advised of proposed amendments to the FEI Driving and Para Driving Rules, which will be voted on at the FEI General Assembly on 23 November 2020.

VAULTING

The Board was advised of proposed amendments to the FEI Vaulting rules, which will be voted on at the FEI General Assembly on 23 November 2020.

REINING

The Chair of the Reining Committee gave an update on discussions and proposals for the future of Reining. The Board agreed that the consultation phase was ongoing and therefore the proposal was not ready for a decision from the Board. The Chair of the Reining Committee was requested to submit a more complete proposal on the future of Reining to the FEI Board for further discussion.

VETERINARY

Due to the extraordinary circumstances of Covid-19, the Board approved the request of the FEI Approval of Laboratory Group (FALAG) to proceed with an online assessment of the Japanese Racing Laboratory (LRC) as an alternative to the onsite evaluation that is otherwise carried out by the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA). The online assessment will be conducted by FALAG to determine if the LRC can become an FEI Approved Laboratory.

The Veterinary Director updated the Board on the ongoing work of the International Horse Sports Confederation (IHSC) Brexit Task Force and the status of the proposed solutions for safe and expedited horse movement between EU Member States and Britain following the UK's departure from the EU. The Task Force has made substantial progress, especially in the area of breeding horses, although several challenges remain, such as the control of horse movement from Great Britain to the EU, in the absence of a trade agreement.

The Veterinary Director also highlighted two of the key proposed amendments to the FEI Veterinary Regulations that will be put forward to the General Assembly for approval. The trimming or removal of horse's sensory hairs will become a prohibited method, and the amendments include the re-categorisation of Veterinary Services Managers (VSM) as Official Veterinarians.

INTERNATIONAL HORSE SPORTS CONFEDERATION (IHSC)

The Board was informed of the creation of the IHSC Gene Doping Committee, which is an extension of the IFHA Gene Doping Sub-Committee. The IHSC Gene Doping Committee has been created to safeguard the integrity of horse sports and to evaluate genetic and cellular therapies with respect to potential welfare, safety, performance and breeding effects. The FEI representatives will be Chair of the FEI Veterinary Committee Jenny Hall, FEI Veterinary Director Göran Åkerström and FEI Senior Veterinary Advisor Caterina Termine.

The Board was also advised of the current African Horse Sickness (AHS) outbreak in Thailand and Malaysia. The import of zebras was identified as the likely source of the outbreak and the circumstances are still under review. Horse movement in the region has been severely restricted due to the outbreak, but strong involvement from the National Federations, supported by the IHSC and FEI Group VIII Chair, has resulted in improved reporting to the OIE. Supported by IHSC, the OIE has published a set of useful Guidelines for Emergency Vaccination against AHS. The IHSC supports further research and development of an inactivated traceable (DIVA) vaccine against AHS and is also reviewing alternatives for future vaccine banks.

FEI SOLIDARITY

The FEI President and Chair of the FEI Solidarity Committee provided a brief update on the FEI Covid-19 Relief Fund, which has allowed the postponement rather than cancellation of many Solidarity projects. The projects for 2021 were approved at the FEI Solidarity Committee meeting earlier this year and are included in the budget.

Following the Board Resolution of 10 September 2020 on the creation of the FEI Covid-19 Relief Fund (CHF 1,050,000), the Board agreed to move the deadline for National Federation applications from 31 December 2021 to **1 March 2021**. The rationale for bringing the deadline forward is to allow the FEI to reallocate any unused funds to National Federations that have been severely impacted in early 2021, and also reflects the essence of the Fund, which is to react rapidly to provide financial support to address emergencies related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

FEI SPORTS FORUM 2021

The Board discussed a number of key topics for the FEI Sports Forum 2021. These will include sessions on Rules Revisions for Jumping, Minimum Requirements for International Events, and the formal integration of grooms as stakeholders within the FEI Community. The FEI Sports Forum 2021 is set to be held from 19-20 April, with both in-person and online platforms being considered, given the ongoing uncertainty around the Covid-19 pandemic.

MULTI-SPORTS GAMES

The Board received an update on the organisation of Continental and Regional Games for the 2021-2023 period following the scheduling challenges caused by the pandemic. As it is still uncertain if the Regional Games will be able to take place, the qualification processes and competition formats for the Pan-American Games are still to be finalised by the Pan American Equestrian Confederation (PAEC) and Panam Sports.

The FEI Eventing and Olympic Director also gave an update on the Asian Games 2022 to be held in Hangzhou (CHN). The venue is currently under construction and completion is expected by the spring of 2021. Preparations for the Equine Disease Free Zone and related projects are nearing completion and expected to be in place by June 2021.

ALLOCATION OF FEI SERIES, CHAMPIONSHIPS & FINALS

FEI Championships & Finals 2021

- FEI Jumping World Challenge Final 2021 - Indonesia, September 2021
- FEI Dressage European Championship For Young Riders, Juniors & Children - Valencia (ESP), 5–11 July

FEI Championships & Finals 2022

- FEI Dressage European Championship for Children & U25 - Pilisjászfalu (HUN), dates to be confirmed, but would need to take place during the European summer holidays.
- A decision on the FEI Endurance World Championships 2022 will be made at the FEI Board videoconference on 15 December 2020.

OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC GAMES

The Board was provided with an update on logistical preparations for the postponed Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo, including Covid-19 countermeasures which are due to be announced next month.

The Board was also advised of the current eligibility status of National Federations, following feedback from those National Federations qualified for the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The majority of the National Federations that have earned quota places for Tokyo have sufficient Athlete/Horse combinations that have obtained their Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MERs) and Confirmation Results (CRs), although these National Federations are looking to confirm additional combinations for the Olympic Games with the aim of having more options for the selection process.

The Board was advised of those National Federations that have not yet been able to obtain the necessary MERs/CRs to fulfil their Team or Individual quota place, as well as possible measures to provide opportunities to these National Federations.

For the Paralympic Games, enough combinations have qualified to fill all allocated quota places, and no Confirmation Results are required. The Head of Classification and the Para Equestrian Technical Committee will address the issues that some National Federations are having with the Classification status for their Athletes in the coming months.