

FEI Press News / Bulletin

FEI Eventing Committee Meeting Pratoni (ITA) 17-18 September 2007

The Eventing Committee held its second annual meeting after the successful European Championships held in superb and historical venue of Pratoni del Vivaro (ITA).

The main matters discussed that will be submitted to the approval of the Bureau were the following:

1. Safety

The Committee approved the report of the 1st meeting of the Eventing Safety Sub-Committee in London June 2007.

The formalization of the **Cross Country Design Advisory Group** to meet twice a year was proposed. This group is to provide recommendations research on safety course design, frangible devises and pins and establish specific/precise recommendations on research projects to be undertaken for Eventing.

The Eventing Safety Sub-Committee would further investigate and discuss frangible devises within an overall safety plan. It was important to include diversified methods that also improve safety (i.e. other frangible solutions for posts, encourage research on construction systems, rules changes, education of Course Designers, coordination of national information). It was important to encourage a combination of Safety measures.

Veterinary Statistics will be merged with the Veterinary database to track abnormal veterinary issues at Eventing events. The Eventing Committee would continue to liaise on this matter with the Veterinary Committee.

Medical information procedures were being studied and how these can be integrated in a database system for information.

Safety back-protectors were reviewed and established that the most important things when looking at vests would be the protection of the thorax, back, shoulder and neck (maybe with air-bag). Air-bag protection of the neck could prevent 90 % of neck injuries.

Riders qualification would be reviewed again as most accidents occurred at lower level events.

A public relations action in international magazines and newspapers to explain the priorities and the work done for safety within the FEI would be promoted.

A number a safety rules will be proposed for implementation in 2008:

- Yellow flags to be included in rules (warning to riders on Cross Country)
- Reduction of overall refusals on Cross country to 3
- Restricted use of whips
- Measurement of Cross Country obstacles redefined
- Yellow cards are promoted to be used for riders with dangerous riding and riding tired horses

A Safety Forum would be organised end January 2008 next year. This forum would be an important start of safety discussions for the next years. All NFs with Eventing activities would be asked to attend the meeting, together with National trainers, riders, Officials. NFs with safety/research programmes would be asked for presentations. Manufacturers (Helmets, Jackets, etc.) would also be asked for presentations. FEI Chief Medical Officer and FEI Veterinarians together with the Course Designers' Chairman of the Cross Country Working Group would be invited.

2. Conflict of Interest - Directives - Independent review panel

Reassessment of the Guidelines on Conflict of Interest approved by the Bureau & General Assembly, after considering the cases of conflict which have been declared and observed to date. It was agreed to propose independent panel of 3 persons to review the situation where a conflict was a problem for the good organisation of an event.

3. FEI World Cup™ Eventing

The Eventing Committee confirmed the importance of the continuation of the series for Eventing as it had much potential and had been hugely successful in many parts of the world.

Call for bids for the 2008 Final and the 2008 Qualifiers was made urgently to NFs with preferably a date in May/June.

Organisation criteria would be set up for all FEI World Cup™ Eventing events.

The following changes were proposed:

- The Final be the same format as for the Qualifiers (order of tests, Horse Inspection etc). However the shorter format (less competition days) needed to be promoted.
 - 1 World Cup qualifier per NF (allowing 2 for large countries).
 - The horse inspection to be compulsory for qualifiers.
 - For two-day Events, a minimum time limit of 2 hours was required between the XC and SJ.
 - It was underlined that the Final should always be organised on 3 days and be the paramount of the series. Jumping should be the last test for Horse Welfare.
 - Number of riders for the Final to be set at **40**.
 - For Qualifiers the height for Show Jumping test: 1m30 (same as now). If 2-day-event (XC & Jumping same day) maximum height 1m25.
- For the FEI World Cup™ Eventing Final:**
- Maximum 40 starters for the Final.
 - Prize-Money Final: EUR 120'000.-
 - Formal Horse Inspection (with Ground Jury) required.

4. Eventing Strategic 10 years Plan – update

The need to set-up the main future principles of the Eventing Strategic Plan and to formulate them into practice was emphasized as the priority of the Technical Committee. The necessity for Eventing Committee to have a strategic vision including the priorities for the discipline to include: Safety, Development, Rules, Education (Officials, course directors, riders, coaches/trainers), Competition formats.

5. Rules for Eventing - Revision for 2009

- **5* level events (new proposal):** Considering that the highest level event in other FEI disciplines was 5*, the introduction of the 5 star level would be proposed. The degree of difficulties would remain unchanged to the relevant level - the only change suggested would be the name of the levels. It was proposed also to introduce a 1 star level (1*) for the development level competition.

- **Qualifications:** Committee proposed to recommend mandatory introduction of qualification for lower level events for safety reasons. In addition the qualification procedures would be reviewed for all categories.
- **Criteria for appointment and education of Course Designers** would be established as these Officials are part of the Safety Programme.

6. Judicial matters support of Officials

Judicial support of Officials: the Eventing Committee would make some proposal to the FEI Tribunal.

Sanctions Yellow cards formalized / larger range of sanctions: it was suggested that a larger range of sanctions should be available and might be implemented in the future.

7. Eventing Officials Seminars & Courses

The Education System for Eventing Officials would be reviewed and updated. The Eventing Committee would propose a programme for the future and clearly define the Education concept. The necessity of attracting new Officials in the Sport and introducing the concept of Mentors & Supporters were recognized.

It was suggested that the FEI develop a Course Material (DVD/Video/PowerPoint presentation) for the Course Directors.

8. Report Development Program – Eventing

Mr Andrew Griffiths the FEI Eventing Development Officer provided very positive reports on the development of Eventing in regions targeted.