

2021 FEI General Assembly Report:

Group IV meeting held virtually: Nov. 11, 2021

Please reference the attached Group IV Agenda but this meeting is typically held in person the day prior to the GA and attending countries can address any questions and or concerns that they have and discuss items that will be voted on during the GA. The Show Jumping and Dressage TC heads in Bermuda along with Bermuda's FEI Vet received, reviewed, and weighed in on the topics to be discussed prior to this meeting.

Note: The attached Bermuda report was prepared in consultation with the Technical Committee heads and distributed to Group IV countries (Bermuda, Barbados, Antigua, Virgin Islands, TTEA, Cayman, Bahamas, Jamaica, Haiti, US, and Canada).

General Assembly:

Rule's session –

Lots of discussion re keeping the current format for Paris 2024. I've included the full FEI media report for those interested in reading more on this topic.

March Sports Forum – this will be the deadline to provide feedback.

FEI Technical Committee's will review and provided consultation, recirculate for final approval, this will be voted on/d at the 2022 GA.

International Olympic Committee (IOC): they consider broadcast and digital performance - universality (multiple flags), and the format should be easily digestible, and attractive to young people.

Quota of 200 athletes per discipline and teams are more important than the individual performance.

Equestrian sport requested to increase their quota which the IOC declined but we did not lose quota spots, other sports did.

Discussion regarding teams of 3 vs. the desire for teams of 4 with a drop score. Looking into technical solutions within the existing framework (3 with a reserve and no drop score).

IOC – valuable contribution to the success of the Games (viewership).

IOC – would like the 2024 format to follow the Tokyo format (existing format).

Qualification systems – alternative option and concerns raised: EEF

- Eliminations, horse welfare and rider safety
- Negative perception of horse sport
- Looking to use world championship as the general leveller for qualification (Europe centric)
 - 11 quotas given for an event with the same level, same conditions
- Nation cup finals the year prior to the Olympics would be the second qualifier.

Protect pathways to the Olympics:

- Paris 2024
- Los Angeles
- Brisbane

Afternoon session:

Jumping – Stephan Ellenbruch is the new chair of the FEI Jumping Committee.

75 athletes for jumping

- 60 make up the teams
- 15 individuals

Jump cup rule change deferred for a year to provide time for implementation (this impacts Bermuda, and it is on our radar).

Additional Information:

Maribel Alonso, Mexico voted as the new FEI Dressage chair.

FEI recap of the qualification discussion:

Paris 2024 qualification systems dominate Rules Session discussions

The Olympic and Paralympic qualification systems for Paris 2024 were the key topics for discussion at the Rules and Regulations session today, with the FEI President calling on the community to work together to safeguard the future of equestrian sport in the Olympic and Paralympic Movements.

Opening the Session, President Ingmar De Vos provided an overview of the comprehensive consultation process on the Paris 2024 qualification systems, which is still ongoing, and the IOC timelines.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has set a December 2021 deadline for all sports to submit their Qualification systems for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. Due to the postponement of Tokyo 2020, the normal consultation process with the National Federations had to be shortened.

Approval of the Olympic formats will take place at the in-person IOC Executive Board at the beginning of February 2022. The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) will publish the approved qualification systems for all sports, including Para Dressage in early 2022.

The FEI President informed delegates that a comprehensive consultation process on the Olympic Regulations and Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MERs) will begin after the FEI Hybrid General Assembly 2021. The process will include a dedicated session at the FEI Sports Forum in April, the normal consultation process on the documents produced by the Technical Committees and further discussion at the General Assembly 2022 Rules Session prior to voting.

The MERs, which will be reviewed, will be an important element of the Rules Revision. Para Dressage MERs are already included in the Qualification Systems as the qualification period starts on 1 January 2022.

Also under discussion will be field-of-play decisions, the allocation of regional qualifying events and redistribution of unused quota places. The FEI President underscored that the proposed

formats with teams of three, if approved by the General Assembly, will only apply to the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and not FEI Championships, Games or Finals.

When the President opened the meeting to points from the floor, the European Equestrian Federation (EEF) representatives presented a last-minute EEF proposal on alternative qualification pathways, based on both teams of four and teams of three.

The proposal called for more emphasis on World Championships and the FEI Nations Cup™ Series as qualification pathways across the three disciplines, rather than Regional Championships.

FEI Secretary General Sabrina Ibáñez raised concerns that the proposal does not meet the IOC's Olympic Qualification system principles, which include providing more than one opportunity for athletes/teams to qualify, fair and equal opportunities to qualify which do not necessitate expensive or extensive travel, and ensuring continental representation.

FEI Regional Group VIII Chair Jack Huang (TPE) stated that lack of preparation in the lead-up to the Games due to lockdowns around the world during the global Covid-19 pandemic could explain some less than optimal performances, but this would be eliminated by strengthening of the MERs for Paris 2024.

United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Director of Sport Will Connell called for longer term thinking on the Olympic formats that goes beyond Paris 2024, to include Los Angeles 2028 and Brisbane 2032. "We need to play the long game," he said.

The FEI President agreed that, as the Olympic Regulations for Paris 2024 would be included in the FEI Sport Forum next year, qualification systems and formats for Los Angeles 2028 should feature in the 2023 FEI Sports forum.

Delegates, both in-person and online, were given the opportunity to speak. Interventions from the floor came from the Russian Federation, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Eurasian Federation, South Africa, Pan-American Equestrian Confederation (PAEC), Denmark, France, Canada, Cote d'Ivoire. There were also comments received online from the Philippines, Botswana, Hong Kong and Sweden, with the latter three countries expressing their support for a continuation of teams of three at the Olympic Games.

The FEI President confirmed to delegates that there would be a preliminary vote on teams of three or four prior to a vote on the qualification system.

After the discussion on the Olympic Regulations, the Session then moved on to clarifications on the proposed modifications to the FEI Statutes, General and Internal Regulations, Discipline Rules and the FEI Veterinary Regulations. There was also an update on Biosecurity requirements at FEI Events and use of the FEI HorseApp.

New contacts made:

- New Canadian and USEF presidents
- Antigua, Algeria, and Maria (athletes Rep)

Paris 2024 Olympics:

Palace of Versailles

Grooms stay at the venue (new hotel)

Teams arrive a few days prior to competition (similar to London)

July 26 – August 11

Eventing, dressage and jumping

Sports Forum draft line-up:

- Social licensing
- Olympic regs
- Dressage and para dressage
- April 25 & 26 and 100-year celebration

2022 GA:

Location and dates TBC by Feb 2022. I will plan to attend if there are no objections from the Board.

PAEC Virtual meeting (held as a follow up from the GA):

Approved the financials, audit report, budget and qualification of ODESUR qualification System. For the benefit of this group, these are the key takeaways for Bermuda:

- PAEC 20th Anniversary will be celebrated March 3-5 in Florida.
- PAEC expect to be able to provide an update on the CAC Games qualifications by mid-January.

Note: we will then circulate these to the TC's and ultimately interested Bermuda athletes.