



NEWS & MESSAGES

04/03

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On Thursday 6 February 2003 about 35 endurance people from AUS, BEL, BRA, BRN, DEN, ESP, FRA, GBR, GER, KSA, NZL, POR, SUI and the USA attended the Open Forum of the "Toulouse Group" in Paris. Later on more people came in to listen and when the meeting was closed with a cocktail offered by M. Pasquier Keni, organiser of the CEIO (CEI****) La Baule, FRA, more than 50 endurance enthusiasts were present.

To start, we tried to define what the spot means to us, what is our common culture in endurance:

- To complete with a healthy horse.
- Horse and rider against the trail without excessive pit stop derby.
- Treating our horses as partners and not as disposable commodities.

If these conditions are fulfilled, then of course "to finish first is to win" and on top of that "getting best condition" are the great achievements we all aim at.

We have a deep admiration for riders/ owners which manage their endurance horses in a way to be able to show their stamina and health competitively year after year.

To see the same horses complete successfully over many seasons is in fact the only prove that endurance is really a sport for the welfare of the horses.

Next, we discussed the points of the original "Toulouse Motion". Every nation officially representing their NF got one vote.

1) Distance of Championships:

Original "Toulouse Motion"

1. Distance: *the Senior Championships must take place during a CEI **** with a distance of 160-kms in one day (unanimous vote)*

There was no doubt concerning this point and the following text was voted unanimously by Endurance Intercontinental Group:

Motion of "Endurance Intercontinental Group":

1. The Senior Championships must take place during a CEI** with a distance of 160 kms in only one day.**

2) Division of the Event/ Course Designer:

Original "Toulouse Motion"

2. Division of the event: *Senior Championships must take place on a course with 5 phases and 4 vet gates (8 votes), or on a course with 6 phases and 5 vet gates (2 votes). In no case should the number of vet gates exceed 5 (unanimous vote)*

3. Course Designer (Chef de Piste): *the layout of the Championships has to be drawn by a Course Designer whose competence must be unanimously recognised. The layout of the course must require the highest level of technical skills of the rider and the horse. The onus is on the National Federation hosting the Championships to appoint the Course Designer (unanimous vote)*

We agreed that the number of vet gates/ stages should not be determined in a strict way for all CEI*** rides.

On one hand there are a lot of CEI*** rides (160 km/ 1 day) all over the world which work perfectly with 4 vet gates, have a excellent completion rate and functioned like that for many years without any problems.

On the other hand the special demands of a trail and/ or climatic circumstances and/ or local requests/ national traditions can request 5, 6 or – in very exceptional cases - even more gates.

That's why a competent Course Designer and/ or Technical Delegate who take the time and responsibility to get used to the demands of an event, should fix the number of gates, the length of the loops, how the distances of the loops should follow each other (in a decreasing way) as well as the hold times. He should work according to the local and actual circumstances and always for the welfare of the horses.

Within this discussion we asked ourselves who in the end is responsible for the design of a course: The organiser, the Technical Delegate or the FEI who approves the schedule?

We also agreed that we want the rides to be organised over a demanding terrain and as technically as possible. This will automatically slow down the speed and therefore will be better for the longevity of our horses.

From this discussion resulted point 2 of the motion with an unanimous vote:

Motion of “Endurance Intercontinental Group”:

2. **We request the FEI Endurance Committee appoints/ endorses a sub-committee to develop recommendations for standards on endurance.**
 - 1) **Course Design (er)**
 - 2) **Vet Gates: Stages**
 - 3) **Hold Times****5-6 members, geographically diverse, recommended by Endurance Intercontinental Group.**

3) Heart Rate Monitor:

Original “Toulouse Motion”

4. Heart rate: *the result of the heart rate check has to be open to the public on a monitor, for example using a HRM connected to a large screen (unanimous vote)*

Motion of “Endurance Intercontinental Group” (unanimous vote):

3. **For Championships electronic monitoring of recovery and heart rate and display of the same is permissible at all vet gates and at the final control.**

4) Rules and Regulations:

Original “Toulouse Motion”

5. Rules and Regulations: *any intentions to amend the rules must be published in the Official Bulletin of the FEI at least 4 months before its eventual enforcement, in order to allow for comments by NFs (unanimous votes)*

Motion of “Endurance Intercontinental Group” (unanimous vote):

4. **Before the FEI Endurance Committee reports proposed rule changes and/ or amendments of the rules to the FEI Bureau, they must seek 6 months of comment from the NF’s. Rule changes can only be effective on 1 January of the year after the General Assembly has approved them.**

5) Schedules of Championships:

Original "Toulouse Motion"

6. Schedules of Championships: final schedules of Championships and pre-rides, including the layout of the course, must be forwarded to the NFs by the 1st of March in the year of the Championships at the latest (unanimous vote)

Motion of "Endurance Intercontinental Group" (unanimous vote):

5. Final Schedules of Championships including the layout of the course, must be forwarded to the NF's 4 months at the latest before the Championship.

After we presented the motion to the Open FEI Forum on Friday, we agreed that 3 months could be enough.

6) Nominated Entries:

Original "Toulouse Motion"

7. Nominated entries: during Championships, a rider can only ride a horse from the duly entered Nominated List of his NF (unanimous vote)

This point has been approved as a rule change by the FEI Bureau at its meeting in Moscow 5 – 6 November 2002 and has come into force on the 1st January 2003.

7) Calendar:

Original "Toulouse Motion"

Calendar: all CEI rides have to be printed in an official FEI bulletin published before the event (unanimous vote)

Motion of "Endurance Intercontinental Group" (unanimous vote):

6. The policy contained in Mr. M. Stone's letter to the NF's of Spain, France, Great Britain, Portugal and Switzerland (8 May 2002) of 8 weeks or more notice of an FEI ride before the ride date, be enacted as an endurance regulation.

8) Qualifications:

Most of us would have liked to see imposed a graded qualification system with a lot of emphasis put on the rider's experience. But in listening to what every nation has to deal with, we realised that there was some need to agree on compromises:

- Most of the present nations demand a national qualification system from horses & riders with i.e. a series of graded set speed and other rides before they are allowed to be nominated for any CEI event. These national qualifications normally include all CEI* distances. "Endurance" for them starts at a CEI** level.
- For small countries where nearly all of the riders own only one horse and all the qualifications are therefore ridden as a combination, a very demanding qualification system on CEI*** level would endanger the horses to be overridden.
- For huge countries the local distances between one CEI ride and the other could make it impossible for riders/ horses to qualify over a very demanding qualification system on CEI*** level.

Motion of "Endurance Intercontinental Group" (unanimous vote):

7. To be nominated for a Championship/ any CEI** ride, the following qualification is required:**

- a) Horse and rider as a combination have to have completed a CEI ride over the same distance as the Championship/ CEI**** ride within the current or preceding year of the event.**
- or**
- b) The horse has to have completed a CEI ride over the same distance as the Championship/ CEI**** ride within the current or preceding year of the event and the rider has to have completed 3 endurance rides (at least one of them a CEI ride) over the same distance as the Championship/ CEI**** ride within the current or preceding 3 years before the event.**

There are no exceptions.

The Motion of "Endurance Intercontinental Group" has been approved and signed by the representatives of the following NF's: Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, France, Great Britain, New Zealand, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, United States of America

The motion has been presented to the FEI Open Forum on Friday 7th February, Paris. The Endurance Committee held its meeting on Monday, 10th February, and we hope that taken decisions will be communicated very soon.

The FEI General Assembly will be held in Bahrain, April 2003. It will be up to the National Federations to put some emphasis on the points of the motion during this meeting.

9) Further discussions:

Further discussions included

- protection of the horse (i.e. Australian Log Book System)
- sanction after elimination for metabolic reasons
- official creation of a club with a seat in the FEI

Unfortunately there was no time left to discuss these points seriously but we will try to talk further about these matters within the newsletter.