



NEWS & MESSAGES

32/ 03

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- Extracts from FEI Press News 39/03 including change of date of the World Championship Dubai 2004 (2005) and allocation of Championships 2005
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The FEI Bureau held its statutory meeting on 4 and 5 December 2003 at Jerudong (BRU) on the kind invitation of the Brunei Equine Association.

The following items were discussed, approved and/or will be presented for approval to the 2004 General Assembly:

STATUTES AND GENERAL REGULATIONS

The revision of the Statutes and General Regulations to be approved by the 2004 General Assembly was studied by the Bureau.

Statutes

The Financial charges (Art 006) will have to be clarified with well defined responsibilities of the FEI, the NFs and the

Organising Committees (OCs).

The composition of Technical Committee (Art 040-048) will be revised according to the specific needs of each discipline.

General Regulations

Calendar: A more flexible system for lower level events and date protection for top level events will be established.

Nationality of competitors: a more flexible rule is needed for competitors living abroad, especially in countries where the possibility to obtain citizenship is strictly controlled. Consideration of permanent resident status should be reviewed.

ASIAN GAMES

A booklet with a compilation of relevant rules applying to the Asian Games to be organised in Doha in December 2006 will be produced by the FEI Secretariat. The Asian Games will include at least Jumping, Dressage and Endurance.

CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Bureau allocated the following Championships:

2005

World - Young Riders/Juniors, Endurance BRN Bahrain TBC

Europe – Seniors, Endurance GBR Stourhead House 6/7 or 3/14 August

The following changes to the FEI Championships were approved:

2004

World - Seniors

Endurance UAE Dubai January 2005 (was allocated for 2004, date change)

ENDURANCE

In the frame of the revision of the Endurance Rules to be presented for approval by the 2004 General Assembly, the Bureau agreed on the basis for the introduction of a star rating for Endurance officials. The aim of this rating is to ensure that FEI officials have the necessary experience and knowledge to undertake their tasks efficiently at the different levels of events. The star ratings are based on a worldwide programme of courses to provide an ongoing education and improvement for all FEI Endurance officials.

The assessment of Officials will be made according to an agreed protocol to be established by the Endurance Committee as well as fixed criteria.

Among the main proposed rules changes the following were particularly mentioned:

- The course distance may be reduced to take into account local climatic differences
- The weight is reduced in the lower level events to a minimum of 70 kg.
- The requirements for officials for International events and their role are defined in more details

- The Endurance rides are defined in stars (four stars for high level events and championships, 1 star for one day events between 40 and 79 km), and a maximum Pulse at Vet Gates and Final Inspection is specified.

- The role of the Veterinary Commission is strengthened and the veterinary inspections explained in details.

Like in the other disciplines, the new rules have been defined with a view to further strengthen the welfare of the horse, especially in this rapidly expanding discipline which has proved to be popular all over the world.

VETERINARY MATTERS

Medication

An update on medication issues was presented with the future direction of medication control in the FEI. This included plans to permit the use of Regumate (altrenogest) to suppress excessive signs of heat in mares competing in FEI competitions and a possible lowering of the threshold for Salicylic Acid (Aspirin). There has been concern about the possibility of some illegal use of sedatives in Eventing which is being investigated.

Horse Inspections

The improvements with regard to a standardisation for Horse Inspections were highlighted and a revision of veterinary examinations at one day events (CICs) is being considered.

Endurance

A new temporary Subcommittee has been established to advise on veterinary issues in Endurance, which will report to the Veterinary and Endurance Technical Committees. The FEI is also launching a research programme next year on horse welfare in Endurance Riding to monitor the physiological changes during a controlled 160 km ride, with the aim to minimise the risks of injury or exhaustion in this discipline.

Influenza

There is concern by the Veterinary Committee after a large outbreak of influenza in the UK last year that the current protocol of annual vaccinations is not resulting in a sufficient protection in FEI horses. A proposal will be submitted to the General Assembly to reduce the time interval between booster vaccinations to overcome this problem and prevent an outbreak of this disease, related to horses competing in FEI competitions.