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International Endurance Forum

Report of the Judges' Working Group



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- The Group was made up of about 30 Delegates from 25 NFs
- Very open, constructive discussion



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Report of the Judges' Working Group

We concentrated on these Areas:

- Distance
- Format
- Qualifications
- Officials
- Communication and others



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Distance

General Agreement that:

- 160 km is the “Golden Standard” for Championships
- Only exceptional local weather conditions could justify reduction during ride



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Distance

- Assignment of Championships should take this standard into consideration
- For other rides, distances of less than 90 kms with open speed are considered a risk for Horse Welfare



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Distance

- No general agreement whether FEI should consider them “International” and dictate rules, or should leave them to NFs and suggest ways to harmonise rules that limit speed.



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Format

- General agreement that short loops lead to dangerous speed
 - General agreement that distance is not the only critical aspect , but that the actual terrain conditions influence speed and distance considerations



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Format

- Agreement that a rethinking of distances and categories is necessary



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Format

- General agreements that, “in general”, loops should be of about 25 to 40 kms, that first loop could be longer than 40kms, that the last loop should be no less than 25 kms



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Format

- Divided opinion about 4 or 5 VGs in 160 kms, but agreement that it depends on actual course (flat=longer loops; sizable height differential= shorter loops)
- General agreement that for 120 to 130 kms 5 loops are usually too many



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Format

- Reconfirm need for crew points or water points every 10kms minimum
- If crewing is not possible, water points should be manned with qualified people



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Format

- General agreement that presentation times should be brought down to 20'
- Consider actual layout of VG
- Divided opinions on usefulness of reducing pulse rate



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Format

- General agreement that hold times should be no less than 40'
- Divided opinion on 50' hold: pros and cons
- Divided opinion on weight: some favour for reduction to 70kgs, but also definite opinions against.



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Format

- General agreement that 2-hours rule in its present formulation is inapplicable, and potentially counterproductive



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Format

- General agreement that particularly for Championships ways to reduce duration of events are important
- General agreement that any mechanism should be fully evaluated in terms of all potential implications



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Format

- General reservations about systems that change the parameters during the ride
- Among the implications to consider, Team results and Classification of riders, potentially unequal treatment to competitors



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Format

- General preference for simple, applicable systems
 - Setting adequate minimum speed for Championships (and progressive closing of VGs), according to actual trail characteristics, seems the most straightforward solution



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Qualifications

- General agreement that qualifications should be strengthened
- General agreement that they should be progressive
 - General agreement that harmonization should start at the national level



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Qualifications

- General philosophical agreement that qualifications should be based on the horse-rider combination
- Acknowledgement that this can create problems for some nations for force majeure issues (e.g. horse sickness in Southern Africa)



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Qualifications

- Suggestions to think about Nation qualification procedure for Championships
- General agreement that alongside World Championships other high level events should be favoured, to create occasions for all riders and nations



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Qualifications

- Suggestions to introduce logbook for horses
 - Make full use of available FEI database on riders and horse, accessible from site
- Suggestions to add to FEI Passports a record of actual result, not just identification



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Qualifications

- General agreement on the concept of downgrading and requalification for horses and riders
- General appreciation of French approach
- Suggestion to study detailed implementation



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Qualifications

- Again, stress on importance of FEI accessible databases for successful control and implementation of any policy on this matter



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Officials

- General agreement that training, selection, ranking, **downgrading** of officials should be addressed with a comprehensive approach
- Suggestion to create an additional level of Judges, decided by FEI



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Officials

- General suggestion to reconsider present Star requirements in terms of officials for international rides (problem of short supply of officials in smaller nations, and consequent costs)



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Officials

- General agreement to clarify and clearly enforce “Conflict of interest” rules for all officials
- General agreement that clear and good relationships between Jurys and Vet Commissions are fundamental



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Officials

- General agreement that Course design is a priority
 - Different opinions on implementation, but agreement that there should be a training format for OCs and TDs
- No clear agreement on the Course Designer role



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Communication

- General agreement that our wording should change, from “elimination” to “qualification to continue”
- General agreement that we need to better explain and communicate



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Other items

- General agreement that electronic HRM and Timekeeping systems should be standardised and officially approved



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Other items

- Discussion on “Handicap” concept, and agreement that it is worth studying, not for Championships but potentially for Rankings and other Competition formats



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Other items

- Suggestion that any rule change that affects horses, should be introduced with adequate lead time
- Suggestion to study rating systems for Rides, but worry to create confusion in perceptions



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- Thank you and best wishes to the Working Party!