

IN PERSON MEETING- Minutes

Dressage Committee Meeting 07-08 June 2011, Paris (FRA)



Meeting title	Dressage Committee Meeting
Date	07-08 June 2011
Time	09.00-18.00 / 09.00-16.00
Location	Hotel Beauchamps, Paris (FRA)
Chair	Frank Kemperman (NED)
Minutes taker	Anna Milne (FEI HQ)

Attendees invited					
Participants	Title	Pre-sent	Ex-cused	Unex-cused	Be-lated
<input type="checkbox"/> Thomas Baur (GER)		X			
<input type="checkbox"/> Anne Gribbons (USA)		X			
<input type="checkbox"/> David Hunt (GBR)		X			
<input type="checkbox"/> Elisabeth Lundholm (SWE)		X			
<input type="checkbox"/> Margit Otto-Crepin (FRA)		X			
<input type="checkbox"/> Trond Asmyr (FEI HQ)	Dressage Director	X			
Invitees					
<input type="checkbox"/> Harald Müller (FEI HQ)	Executive Director of Education and Standards	X			

Last modification on: 14.06.2011

Agenda				
Pt.	Topic	Speaker	Time (min)	Annex
Annex: X=attached; *= In your possession; **=to be emailed by [dd.mm.yyyy]				
	Welcome and approval of minutes of last meeting	Chair		
1a	Welfare of the Horse – blood appearing on the Horse – suggestion for rules change	Chair		x
1b	Annex 13 Steward Manual (Hyperflexion) – is a review needed and if yes, how to proceed	Chair		
2	E-learning for judges, e-handbook Preferably 16 or 17h 07jun	Harald Müller		
3	Evaluation / Categorization of events in general	Harald Müller		
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Situation judges logbook - fast track for judges - Involvement of trainers in the judges education process - Promotion of FEI judges YH - Nomination of one FEI 4* Judge for CDI5* and up by the FEI HQ or JSP - To support younger and upcoming 4* Judges to get them the chance to judge on the highest level the top combinations, I would suggest that you or the JSP nominates a judge of this level for this 6 	Harald Müller Thomas B		

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> shows (number of 5* and up in 2011) - Age limit Judges - Selection of judges for CH and Games 	Anne G Anne G		
5		<p>World Cup</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluation Final Leipzig 2011 - Final 2014 - Improvements other leagues, proposal - Organisers representative in the NAL World Cup Committee Cara Witham is in this Committee and we as AIDEO would like ask if she can act as the organisers representative in the Committee 	Chair Chair Anne G Thomas B		xx
6		Nations Cup concept, including possible cooperation with WDM	Chair		xx
7		Bid Wroclaw, J and YR 2013	Chair		xx
8		Development issues, update and possible proposals	Deputy chair		
9		Ponies, update and possible proposals	Deputy chair		
10		<p>Revision dressage tests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ponies working group established with Katrina Wüst as chair - Other tests – review coefficients/number of tests etc – establish working group 	Chair		
11		Horse inspection – proposal based on suggestion from Stephen Clarke and outcome of discussions in Veterinary committee and Veterinary department	Chair		xx
12		<p>Protocol from Jumping committee on intoxicated Athletes and/or Officials. Should this be introduced for all disciplines?</p> <p>1.2 Protocol for Intoxicated Athletes and/or Officials</p> <p>Under the General Regulations, the Ground Jury after consultation with the responsible Medical Officer may at any time exclude from further participation in a Competition or an entire Event any Athlete who is unfit to continue by reason of a serious or potentially serious injury or health condition.</p> <p>The Jumping Committee awaits a proposal from the FEI Legal Department as to how to apply the protocol with regard to sanctions for Officials in case of intoxication.</p> <p>The Medical Commission recommends that alcohol intake at Events be addressed in the FEI rules as a conduct issue specific to alcohol with a limit set as 0.08 with a breathalyzer test to be administered if there was reasonable suspicion of intoxication by the FEI stewards. The alcohol limit will be presented to the 2011 General Assembly for approval.</p>	Chair		
13		Tests/level in Pan Am Games and Olympic Qualifying process for North and South America	Anne G		

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		2016			
14		JSP new members / age limit	Chair		
15		Use of protective headgear – based on input from Medical committee <i>"The FEI Medical Committee recommends the use of a properly fastened helmet on the show grounds while riding outside of the competition arena venue. In the competition arena and adjacent warm-up area, the head gear requirements are governed by the existing Discipline's rules".</i>	Chair		
16		Other rules changes 2012 - Minor changes are included in the attached rules draft - Received proposals are included in the attached template	DD		x x
17		Other issues from the Action Plan 2011 – discussion on Action Plan 2012	Chair		
18		Protocol in case of Bankruptcy of an Organising Committee The Bureau approved the following protocol, to apply to all CSI events, effective immediately: <i>"If the FEI has reason to suspect that an Organising Committee will not be able to meet its financial obligations, the NF concerned will be authorized to require that event to be bonded. Information will be included in event Schedules to indicate whether the event is bonded or not. If the FEI is aware of an event that is likely to default on payment of prize money, the athletes will be informed through their NF. If in spite of all precautions taken an Organising Committee fails to meet its financial obligations to the FEI, they will not be permitted to organize another event unless the total prize money foreseen is secured ahead of time in an account jointly held by the NF." (R)</i> The Bureau recommended that the other FEI disciplines consider whether they wish to introduce the above protocol; this would be coordinated by the FEI Secretary General.	DD		
19		Conflict of interest of Judges	Thomas Baur		
		A.O.B. (if time)			

Minutes

Welcome and approval of minutes of last meeting

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all. He informed the Committee that Dr Harald Müller would be arriving later in the day.

The Minutes from the previous meeting of 14th April 2011 were approved. The DD remarked that very few comments had been received on the selection of WEL World Cup qualifiers for the 2012/13 season, indicating that the selection process had been correctly conducted.

1a. Welfare of the Horse – blood appearing on the Horse – suggestion for rules change

Blood on the horse a very pertinent issue, which has always led to elimination. However, this is not currently explicitly stated in the rules, but has always come under the "welfare of the horse". The DD presented the first draft of a text on this to be included either under Art 430.7.1 or Art 440 as the Dressage Committee had previously decided that this should be clear in the rules.

All agreed that blood anywhere on a horse in the arena meant the test had to be stopped.

At top level, where there is a Vet present by the arena, it could be motivated to allow examination and a second chance if appropriate (the bleeding had stopped and the Vet deemed that there was no abuse to continue), especially with only 3 riders on a team, in order not to take out a whole team, and it would be recommended to have a Vet check the horse. This would only be practical at top level events, as a Vet would not always be immediately available at lower level events.

Conclusion: A horse with blood appearing on it in the arena would be stopped and examined by a Vet at OG, WEG, World Cup Finals and Continental CHs on GP level. In minor cases and the bleeding has stopped, the horse would be allowed to resume the test. Resumed bleeding would entail elimination. At all other CDIs, blood on the horse leads to immediate elimination.

The proposal was to be, checked by the Vet Committee and Legal Department before proposed for introduction in the rules from 1.1.2012.

1b. Annex 13 Steward Manual

Conclusion: Schooling of the Stewards was a very important issue, to be looked into by Harald Müller, Jacques van Daele and John Roche.

The Annex 13 had been reviewed by the DC, and the decision was to take the pictures out, but otherwise keep it unchanged with the time limit remaining. Jacques van Daele was to check the wording. Appointing a "Deputy FEI Steward General Dressage" would be looked into; the DD was to contact Jacques van Daele in this matter as well.

2. E-Learning for Judges, E-Handbook

Dr Harald Müller presented the e-learning and e-handbook projects to the DC.

The intention with e-learning was to improve consistency and accuracy in judging and to take the Handbook work one step further. The process of judging is based on the judge's knowledge, training and experience and other factors, where visual, sound and 3D factors combine to form a model of the perfect movement in the judge's mind. The proposal to the DC is to develop 1) the e-handbook and 2) an online training centre for judges, which would be complementary to the existing education system.

3. Evaluation/Catergorisation of Events in general

Dr Müller presented this subject and stated that while evaluations had been done before, they had been mainly internal for department feedback.

A system to rank jumping events was now worked on, based on a large number of criteria with different weight, 100% being the perfect event and deductions then being made.

Decision: A transition to a similar system for Dressage was proposed. Thomas Baur would be the Organisers representative in the Working group, the riders would need to nominate someone and the DD would ask Carsten Couchouron for a person from Commercial. The proposal would then be presented to the DC again, and could be tried out for the WEL in the World Cup 2011/12 season.

4a. Situation with Judges' Logbook

Dr Müller, responsible for the Judges Logbook, explained that such a document had been developed. At the end of each year, all results from Grand Prix and up were registered for what and where they judged and at which letter they sat. This is available for 2009 and 2010, and currently no need is seen to do this more often.

Currently there are 213 Dressage Judges on the list, of which 150 have judged at least one GP in the past 1,5 years. As the rules state how much a Judge has to judge over 3 years, and the current system was adopted from 1.1.2010, from 31.12.2012, and every year on, the list can be reviewed and inactive judges removed.

4b. Fast track for becoming a Judge - situation

A possible fast track procedure for experienced riders and trainers for becoming a judge had been discussed in the DC before. Dr Müller reminded that one outcome of the discussions had been that the fast track was mainly an NF issue for them to fast track the person through their national system, and the FEI cannot take care of national education, but only influence when the people arrive at FEI level. The Chair suggested a paper go out to the NFs about this, advising them to use the system for national judges, if a good one could be found. 95% of experienced riders/trainers eligible for fast track procedures would come from countries with existing good education systems.

Decision: A proposal should be prepared by the DD and Dr Müller and then presented to the DC.

4c. Involvement of Trainers in the Judges' education process

At the IDTC meeting in Fontainebleau the question of why Trainers were no longer invited to Judges' seminars and course came up. This had simply been forgotten when all the education matters moved department.

Decision: At least 1 Trainer and Rider representative to be invited to Dressage Judges' courses and seminars.

4d. Promotion of FEI Young Horse Judges

Thomas Baur had asked if there was a need for more FEI Judges for Young Horses. The DD explained that all 5* Judges were automatically also YH Judges, whereas 3* and 4* Judges had to attend a course and pass a test to be put on the list. Such a course was to be held in 2011.

4e. Nomination of one FEI 4* Judge for CDI5* and up by FEI HQ or JSP

Mr Baur asked if it was possible to nominate upcoming 4* judges to CDI5* events to gain experience. The Chair said the JSP should have a "talent list" of such judges. The DD could contact CDI5* organisers and ask them to invite these "talents"

Decision: David Hunt to provide the DD with this list; the DD to contact the CDI5* organisers.

4f. Age Limit of Judges

Anne Gribbons took up the issue of the age limit for Judges. The Judges' proposal was thus to raise the age limit to 73 or 75, with no possibility for further extensions.

The DD had prepared a paper with the age limit for all various officials in the FEI of all disciplines and the general age limit was 70 overall, with several having a possibility of extension of 2x 2 years. Extensions in dressage were considered only for people needed for the sport.

Decision: The current age limit system of 70 year with possibility of 2x 1 year extension on request remains. HQ decides on extensions.

4g. Selection of Judges for Championships and Games

The existing process had been agreed by the whole Committee at the den Bosch in person meeting. Having the best quality judges was the main issue.

5 World Cup

Evaluation Final Leipzig 2011

An overall debrief document on the Leipzig World Cup Finals had been made for all disciplines, based on their feedback, including commercial issues. The overall impression was positive, with good organisation, sport and TV. A couple of challenges were also discussed.

There was no Vet check on arrival of the horses. This is currently in the rules, but in practise impossible for the Organisers to arrange. Therefore the DC decided to suggest to take it out of the rules, except for OGs, WEGs, Continental Championships and World Cup Finals where it would remain.

The time schedule for Dressage was not ideal, with 10 starters first, a long (1 hour) break and then the final group of 5. If a break was scheduled, it should be in the middle and preferably shorter. The FEI should be asked to approve also the detailed time schedule. The draw for the GP was not a straight draw as agreed previously in the DC due to a HQ oversight as the first version of the schedule was approved before this decision.

The riders' cooperation was needed for smooth running of the prize giving ceremonies. From a commercial perspective, the feedback was positive.

Conclusion: The requirement for a Vet check on arrival would be proposed removed from the Rules except for OGs, WEGs, Continental Championships and World Cup Finals where it would remain.

World Cup Final 2014

Lyon had been the only candidate with a combined bid for Jumping and Dressage for the World Cup Final 2014, and no bid for only Dressage was received. However, the Jumping Final had been preliminarily allocated to Mexico, with a final decision due 1st August 2011. Should it be in Mexico, there is currently no candidate for Dressage for 2014. Lyon may be a candidate again for 2015.

Conclusion: The bids for the Final 2014 need to be reopened after 1st August 2011 if the 2014 Jumping Final is confirmed allocated to Mexico.

Improvements other Leagues, proposal

Anne Gribbons had made and distributed a report on this subject.

The Pacific League (PAL) was pleased with the time frame which gives sufficient time to deal with quarantine requirements. However, they had a financial problem with organising flights overseas, as according to the contract, they had not been eligible for the CHF 10'000 travel assistance when the Final was held outside Europe. For the next two years at least, the Final is held in Europe, so the DC has time to investigate this issue. This should be corrected in the contract with the organiser of the Final.

The PAL also asked for more support and presence from the FEI. The Chair suggested the FEI Commercial and Communications departments be asked to give more support.

For the North American League (NAL), Canada reported that having their own League Final would increase motivation to qualify, but it was possible to manage without. The travel support of CHF 10'000 was seen as insufficient, support covering at least the return travel of the horse was asked for (currently approx USD 22'000). This money is paid by the organiser of the Final. Lowering the requirements for the organisation of qualifiers further was not seen as pertinent.

The USA was happy with the qualifiers planned for 2011/12, but also called for more support with travel costs. However, the contract for the Final 2013 in Gothenburg is already finalised.

There were no comments from the Central European League (CEL).

Conclusion: More FEI support was needed, especially in Australia. More travel support had to be investigated. The FEI Commercial department was to be asked to investigate engaging an airline as a sub-sponsor.

Organisers representative in the NAL World Cup Committee

Thomas Baur had talked to Janine Malone, the AIDEO North American representative, about an organisers' representative on the NAL World Cup Committee. There was nothing in the rules on how this Committee has to be formed.

Conclusion: The DD was to contact the USA, Canada and Mexico to find out how this Committee was formed.

6 Nations Cup concept, including possible cooperation with WDM

The Chair informed on the progress of the work on creating a Nations Cup series.

The DC had discussed the usefulness of such a series before and remained of the opinion that it would be useful to the sport. The Calendar was the main problem. The initial aim was to create a top product with top riders (also needed to obtain sponsoring); later having also a

second lower League would be the goal. Generally, having more team competitions was positive.

A timeline was discussed. Having one Nations Cup in the USA, especially in Florida, was difficult due to climate and calendar clash with the World Cup season and Final. The Nations Cup should not be mixed up with the World Cup season. It could start 2-3 weeks after the World Cup Final only (dates of Final 2013 in Gothenburg already set to 24-28 April).

The Olympic Games may prohibit a start for 2012 though. An ideal calendar would be to have shows mid May, mid June and mid July.

In Jumping, the Nations Cup works as a kind of selection, and it would be good if NFs could be convinced to use it as a qualification tool. This would be one more argument for a series, in addition to extra ranking points and good prize money. Nations Cups and team competitions are also attractive to the media. A relegation and promotion system based on the ranking list has to be put in place.

Conclusion: The DC believes a Nations Cup series would be good for the sport; however, the Calendar is difficult to work out. A draft or questionnaire to the chefs d'Equipe/NFs presenting the product, explaining the benefits and asking for their input and support should be prepared in time e.g. for the EU-CH in Rotterdam. Possibly a separate DC meeting on this issue should be held. A clear commitment of the riders and the NFs is needed to make the concept a success.

7. Bid from Wroclaw (POL) for EU CH YR/J 2013

This item was on the agenda for the previous meeting, where there was insufficient information available. The DD now presented more details. There were 4 arenas available in total, meaning the capacity was sufficient. The dates proposed were 23-28 July 2013.

Decision: the Committee agreed to suggest to the FEI Bureau to allocate the 2013 EU-CH-Y/J to Wroclaw (POL)

8. Development issues, update and possible proposals

Elisabeth Lundholm, in charge of Development issues, started with mapping the current situation in Dressage, in order to from there try to find what to do and in which area or on which level to do it, to develop the sport of Dressage. Dressage sport was generally seen to be at its peak or near it now, with the risk of going down in popularity having to be taken into consideration.

If the sport was seen as four levels, with level 1 being the national level, comprising the Challenge tour already in place, and level 4 being the highest (Olympic Games), the DC felt most use could probably be done at level 2 (Regional Championships/Games at PSG level, such as Pan Am Games).

In the total picture of the sport were riders, horses, officials, events, trainers, owners, media interest and to some point sponsors. With this many target groups, all could not be concentrated on for development simultaneously. It was considered preferable to concentrate on one or two, and later move on to another group.

The DC formulated the following suggestion for a direction for the development of the Challenge tour: Put in place a programme covering fewer countries, but with a minimum of 4 days in each by a team of a judge and a trainer, each also responsible to coach local trainers and judges, and work together. The same team would return at certain intervals, e.g. every six months, at least 3 times. An initial timeline could be 3 years. Reports and feedback would be

given by the judge, trainer and NFs in question. The NFs would also have to commit to involving their best riders, trainers and organisers. For financial reasons, the travel should be streamlined and set up as logically as possible. The Trainers have given a clear indication that they are willing to participate in a programme like this at a reduced rate.

The countries chosen would have to have a realistic base to work from and educate. The age of the riders would have to be 12 years at least. The aim would be to bring countries from level 1 up to level 2. All NFs should be sent information on the requirements etc.

Goals, as well as forming a base for a development strategy document, will also help pick out the countries, and should be set. A short term goal would be that this should lead to a "next step up" such as a Final, the Youth Olympics or participating in a CDI1*. A mid-term goal would be a small tour CDI, and a long term goal/vision should also be set, such as participating in the Olympic Games one day in the future.

National Judges can sit-in and shadow judge, organisers and stewards can be given lectures and advice in the evenings as well as being present at the shows and trainings.

As a second part of development, a strategy also needs to be developed for level 2, for developing more GP riders. The Chair asked Elisabeth Lundholm to give a proposal for this. The Netherlands run a very successful talent programme and the Chair suggested adapting parts of this for the level 2. It should also be investigated why a lot of riders are lost from the sport between the ages of 21 and 26, and what could be done to prevent this. The Chair concluded that this was an important, political issue, and the beginning to a Dressage Committee strategy paper on development. Priorities have to be given, such as educating trainers enough, inspiring organisers and giving good shows.

FEI Solidarity

The DD explained that there had been a number of different organisations regarding Development over the years within the FEI. Development was now more connected to each sports department than in the past. The Coaching programme and the Challenge tour were still handled by the Development department. Development had become a top issue in the FEI over the past years, also as it was one of the main points in the President's election campaign. All issues concerning development will now be under one umbrella based on the IOC Olympic Solidarity model. So far this is only at the political stage, the practical model is being worked out at present. Before there was a Development Task Force, now a Development Committee has been founded, and the DC needs to give input to them as it has the knowledge.

The Youth Olympic Games of 2014 will possibly include Dressage, which would be positive and politically beneficial for the sport.

Conclusion: The FEI task is to look to the future and give direction to the sport. The programme outlined above should be implemented for level 1 and a talent programme developed for level 2.

9. Ponies update and possible proposal

Elisabeth Lundholm gave a status report All National Trainers and Chefs d'Equipe at the EU-CH-P in Poland will be invited to a meeting, asking for comments on new tests and on the formula for the future EU-CH-P.

A strategy for Pony riders would need to be formulated,; is as good basic riding as possible what we want, or more difficult tests, which would possibly exclude some countries. There is a working group in place for reviewing the Pony tests, led by Katrina Wüst, which will formulate the tests according to the FEI/DC criteria.

The proposal in change in formula was to allow all riders to compete in a minimum of two tests. Some NFs favour the same formula as for juniors and young riders. Practically, the issue is about the event then being one day longer. If the new tests were shorter, this could help counteract the effect on timing.

The possibility of a Pony series (CDIOP) was also discussed, to install team spirit. Thomas Baur was first to look into how many teams participated at CDIOPs in the past years. CDIOPs scheduled this summer were Saumur, Moorsele, Hagen and Middlefart. Anne Gribbons informed that Pony sport was undeveloped in the USA

Conclusion: A decision by the DC on the new Pony tests was to be taken after the CH-EU-P in Poland.

10. Revision Dressage Tests

Pony tests

The Pony tests were discussed under point 9. The three tests (Preliminary, Team and Individual) should be ready for 1 October 2011.

Other tests

The senior Dressage tests were discussed by the DC. The step from the small tour to Grand Prix level was seen as difficult. An "easier" Grand Prix test could be helpful – the Intermediate II is intended to bridge this gap, and was not seen as a bad test, with a few modifications.

The Senior tests were to be revised for 1 January 2013, the other tests for 1 January 2014.

The Riders, Trainers and Officials clubs would be asked for input 3-6 months before. Margit Otto-Crepin, David Hunt and Anne Gribbons would go back to their clubs with this information after this meeting.

The group was also to review the coefficients and the number of tests. Coefficients have been used both to reward difficulties, but also to even out differences between the weighting of different gaits. The group was also asked to look into the issue of several movements being grouped together under the same score, as it is today.

Decision: A Working group consisting of Katrina Wüst, Margit Otto-Crepin and David Hunt would review the Senior tests for 1 January 2013 and the other tests for 1 January 2014.

11. Horse Inspection

The Chair recapped the decision taken earlier in the meeting to suggest that the horses would no longer need to be inspected when arriving at a venue, except for OGs, WEGs, World Cup Finals and Continental Championships, as this was not practical.

The DC discussed a proposal by Stephen Clarke that the horse inspection, for reasons of safety, should be conducted under saddle, ridden on a loose rein on a large circle on the same surface that would be competed on. The DC was against this proposal, as research proves that lameness would be easier to hide, both by being ridden and by being on a soft surface. The preparation of it and all the horses could also make it substantially longer.

The DC proposed instead that the safety aspects of the horse inspection should be worked on and improved. Horses should come into the area from one entrance and leave by a separate exit, and unneeded people should be kept away.

Decision: The DC after discussion decided against the proposal to conduct the horse inspection ridden, but instead made recommendations to improve the safety of it.

12. Intoxicated Athletes and/or Officials

The Chair presented a protocol regarding intoxicated Athletes and/or Officials as adopted by the Jumping Committee, to discuss if this should also be introduced for Dressage. The DC would like to know more about how to manage this in practice before taking a decision.

Conclusion: the DC supports this proposal in principle, but would like more information on who would control this, how and what the time frame would be. The DD was to ask the Jumping Department for further practical details. If such a system was adopted, it would need to be clear and transparent.

13. Tests/levels at Pan Am Games and Olympic Qualifying Process for North and South America 2016

Anne Gribbons introduced the subject, stating that it had been discussed at length but was complicated. The level of the Pan Am Games would have to be raised eventually to Grand Prix from small tour, being an Olympic qualifier, but most countries were not ready for this yet. Currently the three small tour tests are ridden at the Pan Am Games by 11-15 teams, of which the best two qualify for the Olympics (this time the USA is pre-qualified via WEG, so two more teams will qualify). It was seen as important to keep the horses sport present at the Pan Am Games.

Various suggestions were discussed, including and qualifying one NF at the Pan Ams and one at another event. The final options to consider were to have two qualification possibilities in the Americas (however, any NF could only participate in one of them), or to use a CDIO in Florida as a qualifier. Anne Gribbons stated as the ideal solution if the USA could still be able to compete in the Pan Ams with small tour horses, but without qualifying, and instead qualifying somewhere else on Grand Prix level.

Conclusion: The level of the Pan Am Games should be brought up to Grand Prix in the future. Until this happens, possibilities to qualify on Grand Prix level in a separate qualifier were to be investigated.

14. JSP new members / age limit

The Chair summarized that the JSP currently had 3 members and that Eric Lette would have to step down after EU-CH Rotterdam, leaving only David Hunt and Dieter Schüle. He asked the DC for proposals for new members.

Decision: David Hunt was to discuss three names proposed with Dieter Schüle and then revert to the DC. The age limit for JSP members was to remain 72.

15. Use of protective headgear

The DC made a recommendation a year ago that protective headgear be worn in training and during the warm-up. The FEI Medical Committee now recommends a rule making wearing protective headgear when riding at the show grounds outside the competition arena mandatory. If this becomes a general rule, all disciplines would have to comply. After discussion, it was agreed to copy the US rules for national events, making it mandatory except in the competition arena and warming up for the competition, and mandatory everywhere for athletes under 18. For Young Horse classes, safety headgear would also have to be worn during the test. A safety top hat is defined as a protective headgear, and would be allowed.

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Decision: The DD would look up the national US rule on this and make a draft on this issue for the next DC meeting.

16. Other Rule Changes 2012

2012 is not a year for a full revision. Some changes will be proposed for the General Assembly, and be sent stakeholders and NFs for consultation.

17. Action Plan 2011 and 2012

In conclusion, the action list was working on plan.

The Chair asked all to start collecting issues for next year's action plan, and also to think of a long term (10-20 years) plan, a strategy/mission for the DC. He asked Elisabeth Lundholm to be the person in charge of the long term plan. For the action plan, there were also ongoing issues from now that would be continued.

18. Protocol in case of Bankruptcy of an Organising Committee

The DC agreed to the Bureau approved protocol also for Dressage events.

19. Conflict of Interest of Judges

The DD stated that generally judges seemed to be more conscious now than before about this, since the codex was updated (changed time limits regarding training/course abroad) and distributed to all the previous year. The Codex could still be clearer on some points, such as on financial issues (should be clearer and wider) and an addition on behaviour. However, all individual details cannot be covered.

If a Judge may have broken the codex, an email asking about this is sent to them. They can be issued a warning, or taken off the list for a while, depending on the severity.

Decision: The DD to contact each judge in case, and if needed, take the matter to the Legal Department.

A.O.B

Anne Gribbons wished to point out in relation to the Foreign Judge report that she thought it was not appropriate for the Foreign Judge to look at any other Judge's score sheet. Use of half marks could be discussed with the other judges. The Chair said this could be discussed at the next 5* seminar.

The DD took up the suggestion of changing judges at shows, only having the same judge at a show for max 3 years, then a compulsory break of at least 2 years. If this was agreed on, it could however only be taken into practice in 2013, as many shows had already booked the judges for 2012. It could be a recommendation now, and suggested as a rule change for 1.1.2013.

Elisabeth Lundholm called for some press/communications work to help make judges' job more appreciated and them given more credit

The Chair thanked everyone for a fruitful meeting conducted in a spirit of openness, their input and hard work and closed the meeting.

Next meetings		
Date	Subject	Location
02.08.11	Conference call, 18:00 hrs Swiss time	

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