



IEOC regional meeting at Badminton Friday 3rd May 2019

In attendance: Andy Griffiths (GBR Chairman), Sue Stewart (GBR Secretary General), Jane Holderness-Roddam (GBR), Christian Landolt (SUI), Annabel Scrimgeour (GBR), Nicky Salmon (GBR), Anne-Marie Taylor (GBR), Jean Mitchell (IRL), Judy Bradwell (GBR), Pattie Biden (GBR), Gillian Kyle (IRL), Angela Tucker (GBR), Jane Tolley (GBR), Philine Ganders-Meyer (GER), Gina MacPherson (BEL), Alec Lochore (GBR), Tony MacPherson (BEL), Sarah Bullen (GBR), Thomas Duggan (IRL), Emma Hickey (IRL), Louise Curwin (IRL), Caitriona Buckley (IRL), Tomio Ogawa (JPN), Shigeyuki Hosono (JPN), B Beck-Broicksittor (GER), Tabe Tsuchiya (JPN), Richard Baldwin (GBR), Francois Lucas (FRA), Lynn Roycroft (AUS), Barry Roycroft (AUS), Jan Cottam (GBR), Pierre Michelet (FRA), Paul Tapner (AUS), Sarah Verney (GBR), Martyn Johnson (GBR), William Fox-Pitt (GBR), Harry Meade (GBR), Marilyn Payne (USA)

Guests present: David O'Connor, Chair, FEI Eventing Committee, Catrin Norinder, FEI Director, Eventing & Olympic Games; Bruce Haskell, ERA President

Apologies: Helmut Mett (GER), Christian Steiner (AUT), Christina Klingspor (SWE), Dave Thompson (GBR), Katherine Lucheschi (ITA), Jane Starkey (GBR), PollyAnn Huntington (AUS), Donald Kear (GBR), Zara Pawley (GBR), Helen Christie (NZL), Nikki Herbert (GBR), Zbigniew Seibt (POL), Wayne Copping (AUS), Sally O'Connor (USA), Joan Ahern (IRL), Desmond Hughes (AUS), Lindy Young (AUS), Linda Waller (GBR), Luciano Cantini (ITA), Sylvia Roberts (AUS), Bernd Springorum (GER), Faith Ponsonby (IRL), Les Smith (GBR), Andrew Bennie (NZL), Tim Downes (GBR), Stuart Bishell (NZL)

1. Welcome

From Chairman of the Board of the IEOC Andy Griffiths and a thank you to Hugh Thomas Director of Badminton Horse Trials for the hospitality.

Andy then invited David O'Connor, Catrin Norinder and Marilyn Payne to take the floor with updates from the Kentucky meeting and Eventing Committee reports. Questions would be invited from the floor.

2. Report from David O'Connor to update the meeting on progress and present status.

- 2.1 The Kentucky meeting had done much to move forward the rule making regarding the 50 to 15 penalty move and improving the speed of decision. Riders felt strongly that knowing they had been given a large penalty might affect their decision to continue on course and if a penalty was awarded that should be known speedily in case it affected the riders' qualification. So, the 50 could come down to 15.
- 2.2 Furthermore the 15/20 difference relied on an evaluation of whether a run out or a mistake therefore the new definition involved interpretation whereas knocking the flag meant a 15 if the flag remained in the original position.
- 2.3 The interpretation of the rule in UK was an issue. Head neck and shoulders should be inside the flag and the new rule did not change that. The intention was not to change the intent but to seek clarification. The way forward is now to record on iPhone or iPad. Fence judge has to make the first call for clarification on a penalty. The ground jury will review a request from fence judge or rider to look at the recording. There will not be an automatic penalty for knocking a flag. Only official video evidence to be used.



Transfer of the video data can happen quickly via AirDrop with no need for the internet if using iPhone and iPad. So swift decisions can reach the rider and be known during the competition. By reviewing the video it should be easy to see if the rider was inside the flags or not and if there is any doubt the benefit goes to the rider. This means “inches” outside or more than 2 or 3 reviews.

The TD and Ground Jury will be looking for the horse to actually jump the fence.

- 2.4 **Where is this as a rule change?** The IEOC put proposal about different wording that explains the hind end has made an attempt to jump the fence. This is a worldwide rule change and this wording was added to the proposal that will be discussed all year by all National Federations. Process started in March. It is in the governance process as rule cannot change in one year. So many countries have to sign off rule changes and this demonstrates the open attitude. Clarification made in Kentucky by the riders who were very clear and the Ground Jury very clear and so the rule is evolving.
- 2.5 It is the same here in the UK with rider discussion and input from Officials and explanation and an ongoing process reviewed throughout 2019.

Questions

Jane Holderness-Roddam (GBR). Competence of fence judges is not always guaranteed when faced with technical problems and varied interpretation. A rolling video is not practical. In a field with bad reception and the fence judges put 15 down if they have any query.

David O'Connor reply is that this is the system we want and we accept fence judges as volunteers are variable, but they are the first call and this has proved the best method to date and it needs to be a subjective decision

Annabel Scrimgeour (GBR) said lack of reception is a problem for fence judges in rural areas.

David O'Connor reply is that don't need reception can AirDrop and equipment can be supplied.

Fence judges don't like using their phones and reply is to use supplied iPads so judge retains reception to get home and does not run out of battery.

In France the recording system is tied impressively into XC control.

Andy Griffiths, Chair says IOC has worked closely with IEOC and riders.

Bruce Haskell (ERA) said changes were positive and Catrin Norinder allowed meeting in early June with riders as have to get through 1 to 5 star. Explained the desire for there to be a clear ruling from 2020 and a ruling that is transferable around the world throughout all levels.

2.6 David O'Connor opened discussion on whip rule

Whip rule is under the abuse section and explained why it was not an automatic yellow card. Rule can be interpreted in each individual case and is not automatic. There is leeway for Ground Jury to make a decision.

Also working on the blood rule with other disciplines. Trying to come up with something consistent. For example, is this injury “athlete induced” or a brush fence cut.



Questions/Comments

Andy Griffiths, Chair. Risk Management Meetings. Excited to get approved kit which is coordinated and directed with course designers that can get through the system faster. The recently approved corner kit is not just about corners but adaptable.

Nicky Salmon (GBR). Course design study rule and guidelines are always a fluid evolving document. So do look every 6 months at guidelines which are very strong on what XC designers around the world are following and these are always evolving.

William Fox-Pitt (GBR) looking at course here and the plan for a lot of seriously narrow jumps raise many questions. Ten or fifteen narrow jumps show that no one has talked to Eric about giving us enough space. We have three inches if lucky. Can designers be encouraged to overcome this as Kentucky is on the right side but flags here at Badminton are a big issue.

Harry Meade (GBR) said difficult for course designer who has got to get results within safety margins, and we want space to get between the flags. The question is over future direction and philosophy. If a demanding course question becomes simple, then the course has not done its job. The course designer is under pressure to create a good competition and not put horses/riders on the floor.

David O'Connor explained not just riders but officials and course designers are important to the conversation. Philosophy is first the stage. Then figure out the words. Totally agree with HM/WFP in lots of ways.

Need to rethink the way they give that last stride.

David O'Connor said process is as follows: out July - in October gets looked at - then embed all the countries - then sign off at General Assembly.

Sue Stewart (GBR) said the blood rule is complicated and a difficult subject, but Eventing is a big Olympic sport and can we push to have our own Eventing rule book?

David O'Connor said he would like more singularity between disciplines. It looks like having one rule book for each, that Eventers have to refer to, rather than their own.

Catrin Norinder said Eventing have to follow general rules but specific rules such as bits and mouthpieces for Eventing have been written. Some working groups need to understand more coherently why some are/are not acceptable.

Specific rules are in place and the FEI has created a tack working book for all disciplines. When we don't know the reasoning, our question goes into a working group to understand the reasons behind the rules, which are being reviewed and there will be a report back.

Marilyn Payne held IEOC meeting in Kentucky, where a big concern from Stewards was on nose bands. So many variations in interpretation that a single rule seemed not practical. More clarity needed to cover varied nosebands and measurements by fingers of varying sizes. Plus, nosebands should be checked before dressage.

William Fox-Pitt agreed this was common sense but pointed out no one checked his nose band. Annabel Scrimgeour corrected this!

David O'Connor said Eventing could need an interpretation for the more commonly used snaffle and their own rule.

Marilyn Payne said concerned about diameter of bits and as many as 75% illegal. Not measured as matter of course but if looks wrong or are concerned, Ground Jury can ask for it to be measured.

Harry Meade put whole wrist through noseband and is concerned that an 18 year old going to a competition had this passed and called for better education of Stewards.



Marilyn Payne queried the meaning of 'minor blood'.

David O'Connor explained it varies with the discipline.

Catrin Norinder said that minor is not bleeding freely/can be wiped away.

Christian Landolt (SUI) queried the colour and that mouth issues can be misleading and look worse than they are.

Catrin Norinder emphasised that the public perception is the issue and welfare of the horse must be paramount. The rider can misinterpret a minor cut.

William Fox-Pitt said a superficial cut can be communicated to the public and not be an issue.

Harry Meade felt welfare of the horse was of course first and foremost and must not be muddled. But elimination can be taken out of proportion and elimination can also bring the sport into disrepute.

Christian Landolt said to take away the word 'minor' and solve the problem.

Catrin Norinder will bring the issue up again and is really trying to argue the case but not well accepted. Jumping and Dressage need to have a conversation about it. But riders please come and put forward their perspective.

Christian said the aggression from press and public who bring photographs can be unpleasant. Everyone trying hard and public don't believe we are taking horse welfare seriously.

Harry Meade suggested possibly nominate someone who can speak for the competition in a crisis so it is not the judge having to defend their decision against a backlash.

3. Bruce Haskell/ Paul Tapner gave an update on Personal Safety protection from ERA and ERM.

The rules are incredibly loose and they would like them tightened with all speed, especially regarding body protectors where weaknesses have been found and helmet standards.

Questions:

David O'Connor / Catrin Norinder explained the standards have been reviewed and the problem is the certification and standardisation of regulations. Each manufacturer worldwide says their product is going to save lives but to get a certification process is not clear yet. Medical Committee is against setting up as testing centre, and this is not in a good place yet.

Catrin Norinder said there were serious legal problems in reaching standardisation.

Paul Tapner disagreed and questioned.

Catrin Norinder said different everywhere and cannot easily align.

Paul Tapner says where there is no commercial pressure, then this will take forever to resolve.

Catrin Norinder repeated the FEI are committed, looking at it for pressure or impact or weight but a complex issue which needs specialists and not there yet.

David O'Connor said helmets standardise but easier to resolve.

Paul Tapner said to please not leave to manufacturer as they will make unsubstantiated claims. Will the FEI take action and do something?

Catrin Norinder said meeting in February and trying to clarify.

Bruce Haskell thanked the meeting for the opportunity to put these points forward.



ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Thank you from William Fox-Pitt as FEI Rider Rep and other riders for being invited to speak at Officials meeting.

Jane Holderness Roddam congratulated the FEI on their app and said it is great it gets updated regularly is simple to use and really helpful.

David O'Connor said Marilyn Payne has been a great support, but her position rotates and so please do put replacement names forward.

Names to be proposed by early May. Then names vetted. Forward to the Nomination Committee then to Eventing Committee. Selected by Bureau at end of year.

Marilyn Payne then questioned procedure to measure a bit - how do they do a measurement when in one direction it's legal and in another direction it is not legal.

Stewards need to be advised of the measurement method and the information on this needs to be sent out to the stewards.

David O'Connor said thank you to all.

NEXT MEETINGS

Burghley is the 20th AGM of the IEOC- but there will also be meetings in New Zealand and at Tattersalls in Ireland in between. If others are arranged members will be notified.

The meeting concluded at 18:07.

For those present refer to signed attendance list, but Jane Tolley has mentioned the following were in attendance: