

Note de service

À: FEI Constitutional Task Force
CC: FEI Secretary General; FEI General Counsel ; FEI Senior Legal Counsel
DE: Akaash Maharaj
DATE: Tuesday, 13 September 2011

Model Questions for Continental Gatherings

Please find below the final list questions that you may wish to use in your consultative letters to the National Federations in your respective regions. Each section is prefaced with some brief notes that the NFs may find useful in considering their replies.

Role of the FEI Regional Groups

The NFs that compose the FEI are distributed into nine FEI Regional Groups containing between 8 and 27 NFs per group. NFs tend to be grouped together because of shared geography, language, or other interests. The FEI Statutes define the purposes of the FEI Regional Groups as, “To promote and coordinate the development and the activities of Equestrian Sport within the Group area; (ii) To deal with matters of common interest of the National Federations in their Group and to bring them to the attention of the Bureau and General Assembly; and (iii) Through their National Federations, to present the Nominations Committee with eligible Candidates for election and/or appointment to Standing Committees.” The full list of FEI Regional Groups is available at <http://bit.ly/pehArH>

- Do you think NFs are appropriately distributed amongst the FEI Regional Groups? Do you believe that your NF should be placed in a different FEI Regional Group? If so, why?
- How well or how less well do you believe the FEI Regional Groups have served the interests of the FEI, your NF, or your continent? When and how have they worked well? When and how have they worked less well?
- What do you believe to be the appropriate role, functions, and objectives of FEI Regional Groups?
- Do you believe that FEI Regional Groups are still the most appropriate way for NFs to be represented on or to the FEI Bureau?

- What should the broader FEI do for the Regional Groups? What has your NF done, and what more do you think your NF should do, for your FEI Regional Group?

Role of the Continental Associations and Continent-Wide FEI Regional Groups

There are currently three continental associations of NFs: the Asian Equestrian Federation (AEF); the European Equestrian Federation (EEF); and the Pan American Equestrian Confederation (PAEC). These three associations exist independently of the FEI, were created by their member NFs to advance the equestrian sport in their respective continents, and are at different stages of organisational development. The continental associations may organise their own activities, and may help co-ordinate the efforts of their NFs with the FEI. Although there is no continental association in Africa, FEI Regional Group IX is made up purely of all the sub-Saharan NFs. The EEF web site is <http://www.euroequestrian.eu/> and the PAEC web site is <http://www.paecsite.org/>

- If your NF is part of a continental association, what do you see as the objectives, terms, membership criteria, and limits of that association? If your NF is part of FEI Regional Group IX, what expanded responsibilities (if any) do you think this group should have within the FEI?
- What role do you think your continental association or FEI Group IX should have within the FEI? What should the FEI be doing for them? What should they be doing for the FEI?
- What would you like your continental association or FEI Group IX to achieve with the FEI?
- Where (if at all) is the FEI making too few or too many decisions that affect only your continent?
- If you are part of a continental association, do you think it should have a formal role within the FEI constitution? If so, what? If so, are you willing to sacrifice some or all of your continental association's independence and autonomy to achieve this?
- If you are part of FEI Group IX, would you like to see the emergence of a Pan-African or Pan-Sub-Saharan continental association? Why or why not?

Representation

The FEI was called into being by NFs, it exists to serve our sport through the NFs, and it recognises NFs to collectively be the ultimate authority over its affairs. For their part, NFs recognise that the FEI must govern for the good of the sport across the entire world, rather than for the interests of individual countries or region. The challenge facing us is to find a way ensure that each NF has a strong voice in the affairs of the FEI, that the FEI itself gives weight to the merits of what is being said rather than who is saying it, and that decisions are taken in a way that merits the respect of those who disagree with them.

- Many NFs have expressed a view that they or their regions need to be “properly represented” within the FEI governance structure. What does this mean to you? If you

had better or more expanded representation within the FEI, how would the FEI operate differently, and how would your experience as an NF be different?

- For you to be well represented, who do you believe should represent your interests at the FEI's governing council: your NF; your FEI Regional Group; your continent; or someone else? What would be the minimum that representative would need to function satisfactorily: a seat at the council table; a voice at the council table; a vote at the council; an expanded role in decision-making; or something else?
- How well or how less well do you think your NF is currently represented in the FEI? Why?

Governance

The FEI's supreme decision-making body is the FEI General Assembly, at which each affiliated NF holds one vote, and which typically meets once per year. Between meetings of the FEI General Assembly, most of the responsibilities for governing the FEI are delegated to the FEI Bureau, which has been meeting 12 times per year, and which is composed of 19 members: the president; the two vice presidents; the chairs of each of the nine FEI Regional Groups; the chairs of most of the FEI Sport Technical Committees; the chair of the Athlete's Committee; and the chair of the Audit and Compliance Committee (without a vote). The FEI Bureau can in turn name an FEI Executive Board to assist it by taking carriage of specified FEI Bureau responsibilities; currently, the FEI Executive Board has been meeting 36 times per year, and is made up of the president, the two vice-presidents, and three additional members drawn from the FEI Bureau.

The full list of FEI Bureau and FEI Executive Board members is available at <http://bit.ly/pUomxh>

- We have heard many NFs express the view that the current FEI Bureau is too large, and should be reduced in size to function more effectively. Do you agree or disagree? What makes you believe that this is or is not the case? Do you believe that changing the size of the FEI Bureau would change its effectiveness? If so, how, and why do you believe this to be the case?
- Are you aware of the role and function of the existing FEI Executive Board? If so, how do you believe it has served the FEI and your NF? Why?
- Do you believe that the representatives that your NF, FEI Regional Group, or continent send to the FEI's governing council should act primarily as your advocates, or do you believe they should act primarily as global governors for the entire international federation? Bearing in mind your reply to this question, do you think that an effective FEI governing council needs to have a representative from your NF or FEI Regional Group or continent for you to be well served by the FEI?
- Would you be prepared to support an FEI governing council whose members were chosen first and foremost on the basis of their skills and experience instead of their region of origin? If yes, would you still support this model even if the governing council had no one from your country, your FEI Regional Group, or your continent? Would you need to see a minimum number of council members from your region, or a maximum number of

council members from any one region, to feel confident that there was still a balance of regional perspectives in the governance processes?

- Do you believe that the cause of geographic balance or universalism would be better / adequately / worse served if the chairs of the FEI Regional Groups met in a purely regional forum, that had a constitutionally enshrined relationship with the FEI's governing council?
- Do you believe that the cause of sport would be better / adequately / worse served if the chairs of the FEI technical sport committees met in a pure sport forum, that had a constitutionally enshrined relationship with the FEI's governing council?
- Do you believe that there is a need for a nominations committee to help oversee the FEI candidacy process or populate the FEI's democratic structures? If so, what do you think should be the range of responsibilities, powers, and accountabilities of this committee?

NF Membership Categories

Currently, NFs are divided into six subscription levels, whose annual fees due to the FEI range from CHF 250 (paid by 53 NFs) to CHF 20 000 (paid by 12 NFs).

The full list of NFs and their corresponding subscription levels is available at <http://bit.ly/ptInsk>

- Do you believe it is appropriate to retain different fee levels for different categories of NFs?
- If we retain differential subscription levels, how do you think the FEI should determine which NFs are allocated to which levels: by NF budget; by NF membership; by national GDP; by the number of FEI competitions held in that country; by some other measure?
- Do you think that NFs that pay different subscription levels should have different levels of obligations or receive different levels of benefits within the FEI?

Sport, Associate, and Corporate Memberships

The FEI is responsible for eight global sport disciplines: Dressage; Driving; Endurance; Eventing; Jumping; Para-Equestrianism; Reining; and Vaulting. However, in many countries, one or more of these disciplines is not governed by the recognised NF, and may instead be unorganised or administered by separate entities without a relationship with the FEI. In addition, the FEI General Assembly has created two regional sport disciplines: Horseball and Tent Pegging. However, the statutes remain silent on the role of regional disciplines. Finally, the FEI has fourteen Associate Members representing a variety of equestrian stakeholders. However, there are no defined criteria for becoming an FEI Associate Member, and no defined rights or responsibilities accompanying the status.

The full list of FEI global sport members, regional sport members, and Associate Members is available at <http://bit.ly/pUomxh>

- Should all NFs be expected to administer all FEI disciplines within their respective countries? If not, in a given country, how should the FEI deal with a discipline that is not administered by the NF?
- To be admitted to the FEI as a full discipline, a sport, “must be practised by a minimum of thirty (30) NFs from at least four (4) geographical groups with a total participation of a minimum of ten thousand (10 000) Athletes.” Do you think that these are appropriate standards? Once a discipline is admitted to the FEI under these criteria, what should the FEI do if the discipline later drops below the entry standards?
- Should the FEI harbour the ambition to expand the number of equestrian disciplines it governs?
- What criteria should we use to determine whether an applicant is admitted as an associate discipline or an association?
- Should the FEI consider admitting corporate associates, and if so, under what criteria?

- ends -