

Background information

Invitation System

For the past 3-4 years, the EEF Jumping Working Group and the EEF Board have been working together with the FEI Jumping Director as well as the Chair of the FEI Jumping Committee to find a satisfactory agreement about a worldwide invitation systems for all 5/4/3/2 star CSI shows. The group achieved a compromise which was satisfactory for most of the federations.

Based on this work the following new system was introduced:

- 60% of invitations come directly from the FEI world ranking list in descending order
- 20% of invitations are home riders and 3/4 FEI wild cards
- 20% of invitations are for the organizers themselves (most of them pay cards)

This proposal was delayed for its implementation when the FEI's IT system and Event Classification System (ECS) were not completely secure to properly control that these Rules were followed. At present time, with the FEI Entry System up and running, it is possible to check if the organisers are using it correctly.

What was recognized as an agreement by most of the stakeholders in the sport has been trespassed by the MOU.

MOU signed by the FEI with GCT/GCL

There has been a long-term dispute between GCT and FEI regarding GCT's desire to organize a team competition. In November 2016, the FEI Bureau gave a mandate to Mr. Ingmar de Vos, President and Mr John Madden, 1st Vice-President and Chair of Jumping Committee, to try and find a beneficial solution for this dispute.

A MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) was signed between FEI and GCT/GCL and it was presented to the FEI Jumping Committee. This MOU was approved by the Jumping Committee and the Bureau on separate conference calls.

The Invitation System for this Series is:

- A: 30 % of invitations come directly from the Longines FEI World Ranking list in descending order
- B: 30 % of invitations come from the Longines FEI World Ranking list between [17/18-250](#), not in descending order, Ranking of the month of August of the previous year.
- C: 10 % of invitations are home riders (riders from the country where the show takes place) and one FEI wildcard.

- D: 30 % of invitations are for the organizers themselves

In practice this means:

- A: 15 riders directly from the world ranking list
- C: 5 home riders plus 1 wildcard.
- B/ D: 20 teams are being invited with 3 riders each to an GCT/GCL event of which 2 can jump in the team event totalling 40 riders
- All together 61 riders.

Invitation system for the GCT/GCL means 60 % of the riders must be on the team to get in

The President of the FEI, Ingmar de Vos, stated in his written response to several European federations, that there are no pay cards allowed in GCL.

Athletes cannot be obliged to pay to be part of a team or to pay to compete in the GCT/GCL nor be obliged to acquire ownership in GCL team. But, because of the GCT invitation concept, the riders from the 16th ranking downwards cannot participate if they are not part of a team.

This means that only the riders from categories A and C can come without paying. The rest 60% must be part of a team to be able to compete at a GCT event. Entry fee per team is **2 million Euros per season**, which will be paid by the riders in the team or by sponsor.

The FEI gave this privileged position to the GCT/GCL events under the pretension of it being a series. In the future, every 5/4/3/2 star show that unite themselves to a series, can make the FEI host their event under the same conditions as the GCT/GCL events.

The MOU between the FEI and the GCT/GCL has not been disclosed by the FEI to its National Federations, as it is considered a confidential document. Theoretically, GCT/GCL has been given priority over the other show organisers of the same category.

More information on this GCT/GCL system can be found at the end of this document. This is an agreement of 2017.

FEI Nations Cup Series

The Nations Cups series is over one hundred years old and generally regarded as a highlight of the sport. In the mentioned letter to European stakeholders Mr. de Vos wrote:

"We will not serve the future of our sport by protecting the Nations Cups against other initiatives with rules that are unfair and not acceptable to antitrust regulations"

FEI stated a year ago in a meeting, that the Nations Cup was its most important product. Nevertheless, the FEI Commercial Department has not been able to secure a sponsor while other market operators have been able to do so.

Signing a MOU without making sure the Nations Cup will have a healthy environment where it can continue to exist, equals putting the Nations Cup and its historic value in jeopardy.

Harmonizing the entry fees

FEI has proposed to its NF's to harmonize the entry fees worldwide. That would mean a raise in Europe to more than double of what they are now. The proposal that will be under discussion at the coming FEI Sports Forum in Lausanne on April 10th states that the European entry fees would grow by adopting the American Entry Fee system and would soar up to the American entry fee level.

In Europe, the entry fees are mainly a fixed sum whereas in the USA the entry fee is based on the percentage of the prize money that can be won at the show or per class.

In Europe, riders currently pay an average of 400 euros per horse in a 2-star show. Calculations based on FEI's new proposal show that the entry fee, with the maximum prize money, will be doubled up to 1200 euros per horse in 2 star shows and close to 1500 in 3 star shows within 3 years. (annex 1)

EEF has responded to FEI why it disagree with the proposal

The FEI proposals have drawn harsh criticism from most NF's in Europe to the point where the European Equestrian Federation has taken a stand and does not accept this proposal. In its counter-proposal, EEF requires the fees to remain moderate as before in 2,3,4 star shows in Europe, and presented the following arguments. An extra meeting summoned by the EEF will take place the 14th of March in Bern.

- In Europe, the system works from bottom to top. Competitions serve as platforms for professional riders and breeders to school young horses to higher level. They are important places to present horses to potential buyers.
- In Europe, the lower level competitions are an important ladder for young riders to start collecting ranking points and prove themselves for their NF's as serious candidates for representing their country. Very few of these young riders, breeders or professional traders have such a wealthy background as the new FEI's proposition requires.
- Equestrian sport is already really expensive. It is naïve to think that in today's equestrian sport only talent counts. Rider needs excellent horses and working relation with owners, breeders and sponsors. Still, FEI should enable every rider to have a reasonable chance to pursue its goal as top

athlete. If we move at all fronts towards the image of a super expensive sport, available only for few, we will soon lose our credibility as serious sport and there is a clear danger that the sport cannot grow and the breeding and trading will dry up.

- There are more shows than ever and new show organisers who produce several shows yearly. That is a clear indication that there are healthy business opportunities available with the current model.
- Standardized rules serve their purpose when they make things and processes better and develop the sport. But harmonizing the system that has proven its value over the years and is still successful, into a system less favourable for the equestrian sport and its development in Europe, just for the sake of harmonization is not acceptable. Europe dominates the equestrian sport and should decide how the system is developed.

Europe dominates the Jumping equestrian sport and horse industry

The FEI is an association of federations and it is a service organisation for its member countries.

- 81% of the international shows are organized in Europe
- 84% of the jumping horses registered in the FEI are from Europe
- 79% of FEI registered jumping riders are from Europe (not counting the large number of foreign riders based and riding in Europe) (annex 2)

RULES FOR THE 2017 LONGINES GLOBAL CHAMPIONS TOUR

EVENTS

The number of Global Champions Tour events in 2017 is 15 (each a “**GCT Event**”).

OVERALL CLASSIFICATION

Athletes may take part in all GCT Events.

The GCT overall classification is based on each athlete's points from 50% of the total number of GCT Events held during the season, rounded up to the next number.

Events on borrowed horses cannot be part of the GCT. In case of a tie on points for any position at the end of the season, the athlete with the greatest number of first place finishes is classified before any other athletes tied for the same number of points. If there is still a tie, the athlete with the greatest number of second place finishes is classified before the other athletes and so on until all athletes with the same number of points have been separated.

A prize money for overall classification is offered to the top 18 athletes in the GCT overall classification (tour series) as follows:

1st place	31%
2nd place	20%
3rd place	13%
4th place	8%
5th place	5%
6th & 7th places	3,5% each
8th to 11th places	2% each
12th to 14th places	1,5% each
15th & 16th places	1% each
17th & 18th places	0,75% each

Prizes won by athletes who are tied are added and divided equally.

The amount of the prize money for the GCT overall classification is EUR 950'000.

The top 3 athletes in the GCT overall classification must be present at the last GCT Event of the season to receive their prize in person and to be available for the press conference. Athletes must be dressed in competition attire. No prize money is given to an athlete who does not present himself at the prize giving ceremony and/or press conference if required to do so.



GLOBAL CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE

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