



FEI Regional Dressage Forum

- Concept Paper; 09 September 2010-

Definition

The FEI Regional Dressage Forum (RDF) is a meeting place for discussion, exchange and promotion for all stakeholders of Dressage within a particular geographical region.

History

Since the first FEI Regional Dressage Forums have been organised the feedback of its impact was quite positive. ... Various forums have been organised so far: Thailand 2007, Australia 2006 serving Oceania, New Zealand and Australia and Brazil 2005 serving the South American Continent.

The RDF was perceived as a possibility to inform, update and motivate regional riders, coaches and other stakeholders and furthermore served as an information resource on all issues concerning international Dressage.

Numerous important speakers have contributed so far, for example Mariette Withages (BEL), Angelika Frömring (GER), Jean Bemelmans (GER), Gerd Heuschmann (GER) as well as representatives from FEI Headquarters.

Therefore the FEI is encouraging National Federations, organisers or other parties to continue with the organisation of such forums.

Problem Analysis

Dressage is not sufficiently developed in the majority of the FEI National Federations. Among others, the reasons are access problems to adequate horses and breeds, technical knowledge of coaches and trainers, education of riders and judges, public perception and comprehension problems, inadequate development plans of the National Federations and consequently a lack of motivation of those practicing, assisting and operating the sport.

The FEI under its current President HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein has committed itself to implement a global programme for the development of equestrian sport. In the framework of this programme the difficulties of the eight FEI disciplines as well as other areas such as Transport & Quarantine, Information Technology, Coaching or advanced official training will be addressed and National Federations already receive support.

The FEI Regional Dressage Forum fits into this programme by providing a non-permanent but reoccurring opportunity to exchange information; always considering the regional realities of Dressage.

Goals

By supporting the organisation of Regional Dressage Forums the FEI intends to stimulate the development of Dressage by providing presentation and discussion opportunities of regional and international experts.

The main goals of the FEI RDF can be summarised as follows:

- to allow exchange of best practice in training for riders and horses of different level
- to discuss the judging of Dressage performances of different levels
- to provide information on latest veterinarian findings relevant to Dressage
- to inform on the current situation in international Dressage in general
- to give a brief update on latest rule changes
- to discuss regional / international breeds and effective training
- to exchange best practice in operating Dressage Youth programmes
- to exchange ideas on training of young horses
- to inform about the FEI Development Programme and
- to inform about the FEI Dressage Challenge

Target Groups

The potential groups interested in participating in the RDF can be the following:

- Fans
- Coaches
- Riders
- Judges
- Journalists
- Breeders
- Dealers
- Manufacturers

The target groups are those who would like to participate while others might be interested to present their businesses.

Roll out

The basic idea of the RDF concept is that all RDFs world-wide will follow the same philosophy and programme design. In principle all National Federations are welcome to organise RDFs. But each RDF should be organised with a maximum impact for the respective region by inviting participants and speakers from as many countries within the region as possible. Ideally each geographical region (America, Europe/Africa, Asia and Oceania) should organise one RDF every second year.

The RDF can be organised together with courses for dressage officials and /or in the context of a national dressage competition.

Benefit Analysis

There are intangible and tangible benefits for the participants as well as for the organising National Federations.

- *Education*: the RDF can be used as a opportunity for permanent education.
- *Community Building*: the community of Dressage in the respective region can organise itself and continue to exchange information especially after the RDF
- *Networking*: personal contacts within the region as well as world wide can be established and help in specific national projects
- *Motivation*: a RDF can significantly raise the motivation of the participating stakeholders, as the might see themselves as part of a bigger movement with similar problems
- *Kick-off*: the RDF can have a kick off effect on national level by initiating interest into Dressage within the public and the media
- *Profit*: depending on the management skills of the organisers, a RDF can be used to generate income by raising RDF fees, offering commercial trade stands and selling sponsor packages

Evaluation

The RDF forum will be evaluated by a standard questionnaire filled by both the organiser as well as the participants. The results will be analysed by the FEI and forwarded to the local organiser for further feedback.

Catalogue of Specifications

The local organiser is responsible for the planning, financing and organisation of the RDF.

The local organiser can use the FEI logo in the context of the RDF promotion.

After the RDF the local organiser will provide a proper documentation of the RDF in either printed or electronic format.

To receive financial help from the FEI, the local organiser has to submit a corresponding preparation report (including a tentative timetable and a list of invited countries), at least six months before the RDF, to the FEI Dressage Department in Lausanne.

The FEI contributes to the organisation financially as per below and by nomination of speakers.

Depending on the content focus the FEI will contact corresponding world class experts to speak at the RDF.

The financial contribution of the FEI to one RDF is 4,000,-CHF. Furthermore the FEI will pay for the airfares of at least two FEI representatives (one from FEI Headquarters and one from the FEI Volunteer Body).

The local organiser is responsible to pay for local transport, accommodation and boarding of the FEI experts as well as possible fees.

Contents

Each RDF must have both, theoretical lectures as well as practical presentations.

Each RDF should choose the contents depending of the needs in Dressage within that particular region.

It is intended to have a variety of presentation formats such as:

- Practical presentations with extensive Questions & Answers opportunities
- Podium discussions
- Video sessions
- Theory workshops
- Sufficient networking opportunities

The selection of contents should be done in cooperation with the FEI Dressage Department, considering the goals mentioned above.

Programme

Indispensable features of the RDF. The following sessions have to be covered within each RDF

- 1) Welcome and Introduction
- 2) Wrap up and Closing
- 3) Practical Sessions
- 4) The FEI Development Programme
- 5) Workshop on regional problems in Dressage

Timelines

To receive financial help from the FEI, the local organiser has to submit a corresponding preparation report (including a tentative timetable and a list of invited countries), at least six months before the RDF, to the FEI Dressage Department in Lausanne.

After approval by the FEI the organiser and the FEI agree in writing on who contacts and informs which speaker.

A printed programme will be send to the FEI Dressage Department at least eight weeks before the RDF.

The final report on the RDF will be send by the local organiser not later than six weeks after conclusion of the RDF.

At least six months after the RDF the local organiser will publish the RDC documentation in a previously agreed format (e.g. printed or electronic). The organiser might raise charges for each copy to cover the costs for production and shipping.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the FEI Dressage Department, Director Trond Asmyr (email: trond.asmyr@fei.org).

