

Sport Development Committee Meeting
Executive Summary
28 September 2026

1. Safeguarding self-disclosure compliance for stewards is approximately 99% complete and is now being extended across the judging pathway. Further safeguarding risk assessment training is planned for late October.
2. The marshalling pilot received positive feedback and has already generated new stewarding recruits. Further work will focus on volunteer pathways, mentoring and training opportunities for younger volunteers.
3. Mandatory steward standardisation is planned for December, with steward training and rule reviews taking place during October.
4. The Committee supported development of a new BD Open Series pilot, intended to attract riders currently competing at unaffiliated competitions. The proposed one-year pilot would launch from 1 July 2027 and provide a non-qualifying competition environment for both members and non-members.
5. Plans were also approved to move class ticket purchasing into the membership portal, improving tracking, promotion and membership conversion opportunities.
6. Further market research and tender process for potential partners to provide a digital remote training platform will take place over the course of the autumn.
7. The Committee supported development of a proposed new flagship championship event, the British Dressage Masters, in partnership with Wellington Riding, to be launched in June 2027.
8. A revised U25 Championship format is being developed and will be presented to the Youth Committee for deliberation and approval.
9. Work will progress to bring the Welsh and Scottish Championships under the BD affiliation umbrella to improve consistency of rules and recording of results.
10. The Eligibility Working Group will meet in October to consider longer-term eligibility principles, including future Grand Prix pathways.
11. Updates were provided on the current FEI rule change process. Final draft will be published in November, with ratification scheduled for the FEI General Assembly in December. Potential delays to printed officials' handbooks were noted.