

Executive Summary

Sport Development Committee

Date of Meeting: 30 September 2025

1. The Head of Sport presented the Welfare Report, confirming the number of eliminations recorded for the year to date and the percentage of those that were welfare related. It was agreed that this data would be shared with members on an annual basis at the AGM.
2. The new FEI noseband measuring device has now been used at this year's National Championships, where 91% of horses checked passed the test first time. The device will also be trialled at the Area Festival Championships. Centaur Biomechanics will then compile the data from both championships and presenting a report to Board. The Steward Working Party will also discuss the findings and any further learnings at their meeting later in the year. Full implementation will proceed as planned, from 1 January 2026.
3. New live scoring protocol for officials was discussed. The timeline to register an objection was reviewed and the wording of rule was amended to reflect live scoring. New protocol to be implemented prior to commencement of Area Festival Championship in early October.
4. The Head of Development proposed the introduction of digitalised online reporting for complaints and welfare forms. The Committee supported this idea. To be presented at next Finance & Business Development Committee meeting and Board meeting for approval.
5. The Head of Sport reported that Summer Regional qualification numbers were positive, with a return to numbers close to that of 2021, although Area Festival qualification numbers were marginally down. Further analysis of participation numbers will be required, in particular at Elementary Silver level, where participation was lower than expected.
6. Further proposed rule changes for 2026 were discussed. This includes updates to Grand Prix qualification, Team Quest scoring, clarification on Counter Canter and permitted moves for Novice Freestyle to Music. Proposed changes will be put forward for Board approval.
7. The format and future of the National Championships was discussed at length. While this year's event was successful, tickets sales were down compared to 2024, with the poor weather forecast impacting 'on the day' ticket sales. Costs continue to rise, resulting in a deficit each year. Further discussions planned for the Board meeting in October.
8. FEI CDI AM eligibility declaration was discussed. Further clarification on athlete amateur status to be sought from the BEF. Head of Sport to arrange to meet to discuss further.

Date of next meeting: 24 November 2025