

MINUTES OF 58TH ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING OF EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION OF INDIA HELD ON 29TH SEP 2019 AT MANEKSHAW CENTRE, DELHI CANTT

1. The 58th Annual General Body Meeting of Equestrian Federation of India was held on 29th Sep 2019 at Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantt under the Chairmanship of Lt Gen Gopal R, UYSM, AVSM, SM, President EFI. The meeting was attended by 183 members.

2. **Opening address by the President**

2.1 The President welcomed all the present members of Equestrian Federation of India to the 58th Annual General Body Meeting. He also welcomed Maj Gen R K R Balasubramanian (Retd), former DGST Lt Gen Balbir Singh Sandhu, VSM (Retd), former DG RVS Lt Gen AJ Singh, VSM (Retd) and all other distinguished members who have contributed in a rich manner to the noble sport.

2.1.1 The President further added that it was a matter of practice in the AGM that the President stands at the podium and gives a review of activities which has taken place in the last calendar year and also the future road map to take this sport and organisation to greater heights. Several landmark decisions have been made which are enumerated in the succeeding paragraphs.

2.1.2 **Voice of Athletes**. The President informed the house that the Athletes Commission has been incorporated so that the athletes add value to decision making of Executive Committee which is not a water tight compartment wherein it takes a decision in isolation not considering ground realities. He assured the house that the Athletes Commission representatives would be representing athletes and putting forward value added suggestions so that we move from strength to strength rather than being dragged down by controversies.

2.1.3 The President apprised the house that the need of the hour for the sport is good quality horses. This requires adequate financial support to improve the present horse flesh available in the country. The President further apprised the house that the long outstanding payment from the Sports Authority of India (SAI) on account of the expenditure incurred for the 18th Asian Games has been reimbursed i.e 2.36 crores. Irrespective of funds received from SAI, dues towards Foreign Coach for their services have been cleared and balance if any would be cleared whether there was an agreement or not.

2.1.4 The President informed the house that the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has given us the condonation to file for exemption for a long pending penalty of Income Tax and the same will be filed soon.

2.1.5 The President informed the house that the federation is at a turning point and all present are aware what is being referred to. Irrespective of the type of sports or games having a single national sports code, it has got implementational issues which we have from time to time have been informed to the competent authorities. He also added that on 11th Oct 2019, the Hon'ble Minister of State of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports Shri Kiren Rijiju is holding a conference with all the National Sports Federations wherein issues will be discussed and deliberated and a decision arrived at, so that we can move ahead rather than being dragged down by how the EFI should act or behave or go ahead based on perceived personal opinion of bodies. A sad day where one of the State Association had to take us to the court for non compliance of the issues. The court has given certain decision and the matter is sub-judice.

2.1.6 Dissent in a form which is acceptable to anybody is welcome as it shows the internal health of the organisation. But the moment dissent is taken outside and it spread like wildfire. We have 1900 registered horses, 2400 registered riders. This is a sport which requires extreme discipline and alertness. We need to have a disciplined approach with regards to the matter which have interests. Change is inevitable but there is a way to go about the change.

2.1.7 Lastly the President added that this AGM should be a platform to discuss, deliberate and arrive at a course of action facilitating in moving forward. I expect a meaningful cordial exchange of views maintaining the decorum of this particular house.

2.2 He then handed over the proceedings to the Secretary General.

AGENDA I

3. **Confirmation of the Minutes and Progress on the Points of Last AGM.** The Secretary General informed the house that minutes of the last year AGM held on 30th Sep 2018 were available on EFI website for perusal of all concerned and requested the house to pass the minutes.

3.1. Col Rajesh Pattu, SJRP, VSM (Retd) observed that the minutes of AGM 2018 were not recorded properly and the minutes were manipulated and prepared as per the convenience of EFI. He further made the reference of Mr Jitu Virwani, Vice President (Finance) and Col Sarpartap Singh (Retd) who was earlier the Secretary General of the Federation mentioning about issues pertaining to the functioning of EFI. He further questioned that his emails to the federation were not replied to. He raised a question with respect to the nature of transparency being followed in the functioning of the federation. The video recording was stopped while he was speaking and requested the President to investigate the same with some representative from an external agency. Col Rajesh Pattu, SJRP, VSM (Retd) expressed dissent to passing of the minutes for reasons cited. He also questioned about of absence of any representative from Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS) or Indian Olympic Association (IOA). In response, Vice President (Adm) informed the house that the NF had written letters to both the authorities but they have not sent any representative for the AGM.

3.2 Col Ashok Kumar Yadav introduced himself as a re-employed ASC Officer and a FEI 3* Jury for Endurance. He emphasised on the development and progress endurance as a discipline has made over the years. He alleged that Lt Col Bharat Singh Rathore (FEI 2* Judge) has never judged an Endurance event and hence his Promotion to FEI 2* Judge is illegal. He also wanted to know the person who recommended his application for promotion. He requested the house that EFI should write to FEI for deletion of his name from the list of officials. The President informed Col Ashok Kumar Yadav that the point has been noted.

3.2.1 Col Ashok Kumar Yadav referred to the Technical Guidelines of Endurance and tried to justify objection to change in Technical Guidelines which had been passed in the AGM 2018 on 30th Sep 2018. The Vice President (Adm) assured Col Ashok Kumar Yadav that amendment to Technical Guidelines of all disciplines is slotted later on the agenda for discussion and the same can be taken up for discussion at that particular agenda. Col CS Sohal (Retd), Member Endurance clarified that the amendments have been incorporated keeping in view the requirement of the sport at the National level. Certain aspects of the rules under which the discipline is governed in India do differ from the FEI rules but the changes have been incorporated.

3.2.2 Col Ashok Kumar Yadav objected to the amendment in the Statutes and used unparliamentary language in expressing himself to which the house as well as Lt Gen AJ Singh, VSM (Retd) vehemently objected. Col Ashok Kumar Yadav was advised to adhere to the decorum or should leave the house.

3.2.3 Col Ashok Kumar Yadav also observed that the Federation is spending huge expenditure on court cases by referring the cases of Mr Balaji Vijayshankar & Mr Yashan Khambatta and Mr Angad Sahlot. He quoted a reference of Ministry of Law Affairs dated 01 Oct 2015 wherein the fees of Advocates have been prescribed as @ Rs 25,000/- for Supreme Court Advocates and Rs 15000/- for High Court Advocates. In reply, the Secretary General informed the house that during last AGM held on 30th Sep 2018 Mr. Kevik Setalved had appraised the house that the legal fees paid to the advocates is minimal and justified keeping in view the nature of the case. He himself was involved in the complete process and assured the house that the expenditure is fully justified keeping in view the nature of judgement which was received from a very reputed judge which is a benchmark judgement and the same can be referred by many NFs in times to come and thus the expenditure incurred is justified.

3.3 Lt Col Sandeep Dewan (Retd) observed that he had written letter to EFI wherein he had requested to investigate allegations pertaining to malpractices by Secretary General related to misuse of transport, funds etc which were flashed on the screen in last AGM. He further added that these were not even discussed, kept in the end of the AGM as also not mentioned in the minutes of AGM. In this regard, the Secretary General informed the house that while his point was being heard in reference to foreign trips, Mr Jitu Virwani, Vice President (Finance) explained that it was a necessity for someone to represent the country in the international forum, meets and Secretary General was the right person for the same. Hence, the expenditure on foreign travel is justified and not an aberration and the same have been recorded in the minutes of last AGM. The Secretary General asked Lt Col Sandeep Dewan (Retd) not to make any false statements/allegation against EFI Officials.

3.4 Lt Col Gautam Das (Retd) recommended that the minutes not to be confirmed right now as three members have objected/raised points against the minutes.

3.5 Col Nakul Yadav said that the entire house cannot be just held up for these reasons and proposed to pass the minutes.

3.6 Brig Deep Ahlawat, VSM suggested that the minutes be passed by voting amongst the members present here. The President asked the house to show off your hands to pass the minutes.

3.7 The minutes were passed by members by vote of majority.

AGENDA-II**4. Secretary General's Report.**

Points	Decision/Directions	Action to be taken by
<p>4.1 <u>Events held during the EFI Calendar year 2017-18 & 2018-19:-</u>The Secretary General briefed the house on all events (including Coaching Camps & Clinics/Courses) conducted from 01 Sep 2018 to 28 Sep 2019 and flashed the same. Details as under :-</p> <p>(a) National/FEI Event Results - Appx 'A'</p> <p>(b) International Event Results - Appx 'B'</p> <p>(c) Details of Coaching Camps - Appx 'C'</p> <p>(d) Details Clinic/Courses - Appx 'D'</p> <p>(e) National Champions - Appx 'E'</p> <p>(f) Transfer/Promotion of Officials - Appx 'F'</p>	<p><u>Decision of the house</u> The same were perused by the house and ratified.</p>	All
<p>4.2 <u>Athletes' Commission of EFI.</u> The Secretary General informed the house that as per the instructions and guidelines issued by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), the Athletes Commission had been formed comprising of five members out of which three were elected and two nominated by the President EFI. The composition of the Athletes' Commission is as under:-</p> <p>(i) Ms Vanita Malhotra (Chairperson)</p> <p>(ii) Lt Col R Sangram Singh (Vice Chairperson)</p> <p>(iii) Mr MS Rathore</p> <p>(iv) Ms Nadia Haridass</p> <p>(v) HC Suresh Kumar</p> <p>The Secretary General also informed the house that henceforth all points pertaining to athletes which require to be tabled in the EC should be routed through the Athlete Commission.</p>	<p><u>Decision of the house</u> The same were perused by the house and ratified.</p>	All Secy Gen
<p>4.3 <u>Formation of Various Sub Committees.</u> The Secretary General informed the house about the formation of various sub committees recommended by the Executive Committee. The list is attached at Appx 'G'.</p>	<p><u>Decision of the house</u> The same were perused by the house and ratified.</p>	All Secy Gen

Points	Decision/Directions	Action to be taken by
<p>4.4 Participation Certificate for Junior National Equestrian Championship (JNEC). The Secretary General informed the house that for a very long time the federation is in receipt of request from parents and riders of JNEC participants for issue of participation certificate for JNEC. With the introduction of REL, only riders who qualify through REL are eligible to participate in JNEC. Considering the above and to encourage participation in JNEC the Executive Committee appointed a technical committee to work out methodology and the following has been approved for JNEC Participation Certificate as per under mentioned criteria:-</p> <p>(a) <u>Show Jumping (Normal) & Dressage.</u> Participation certificate to be awarded since they are selected through REL.</p> <p>(b) <u>Eventing, Tent Pegging & Endurance.</u> Top 25% of riders to be given participation certificate as no REL is conducted for these disciplines.</p>	<p>Decision of the house The house perused the recommendations of the EC/ Technical Committee and approved.</p>	<p>All Secy Gen</p>
<p>4.5 Anti Doping Policy by NADA. The Secy Gen informed the house about the Anti Doping Policy of NADA and brought to the notice of the house that there has been a number of dope violation cases pertaining to equestrian sport. The NADA has become active and is empowered to take samples of all athletes at random at any of the approved calendar events of equestrian. He also shared the recommendations of the EC:-</p> <p>(a) All organising committees to have a paragraph on anti doping in the prospectus/ adm instructions of the proposed event with details of the Doctor to be contacted in case of any medication required.</p> <p>(b) The doctor should be aware of the banned /restricted drugs on the NADA list and should be well versed with the NADA anti doping policies in vogue.</p>	<p>Decision of the house The house perused the recommendation of the EC and agreed.</p>	<p>All Secy Gen</p>

Points	Decision/Directions	Action to be taken by																		
<p>4.6 Review of Remuneration : Officials. The Secretary General informed the house that a committee was formed during the EC dated 19th Jan 2019 comprising of Vice President (Technical), Member East Region and Member Tent Pegging to asses and recommend the quantum of remuneration to be paid to officials engaged by EFI. After deliberation on the report submitted by the aforesaid committee the EC approved the following rates of remuneration to Civilians/Retired officials for conduct of EFI/FEI events.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="169 846 903 1532"> <thead> <tr> <th>Item</th><th>Existing</th><th>Approved Rates by EC</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Travel</td><td>AC –II Tier</td><td>AC - I Tier / Economy Class Airfare whichever is less</td></tr> <tr> <td>Accommodation</td><td>Guest Room/ Appropriate Accn</td><td>Guest Room/ Appropriate accommodation</td></tr> <tr> <td>Remuneration / Day</td><td>Rs 1000/- per day</td><td>Rs 2500/- per day</td></tr> <tr> <td>Local Transport</td><td>Suitable Tpt</td><td>Remuneration of Actual Fare / Rs 1000/- whichever is less</td></tr> <tr> <td>Food</td><td>Rs 500/- per day</td><td>Rs 500/- per day</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Item	Existing	Approved Rates by EC	Travel	AC –II Tier	AC - I Tier / Economy Class Airfare whichever is less	Accommodation	Guest Room/ Appropriate Accn	Guest Room/ Appropriate accommodation	Remuneration / Day	Rs 1000/- per day	Rs 2500/- per day	Local Transport	Suitable Tpt	Remuneration of Actual Fare / Rs 1000/- whichever is less	Food	Rs 500/- per day	Rs 500/- per day	<p>Decision of the house The house perused the recommended rates of the EC and ratified the same.</p>	<p>All Secy Gen</p>
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<p>4.7 Regional Equestrian League. The Secretary General informed the house that certain points have been received with respect to conduct of RELs. The same were discussed in detail by the EC and following have been decided:-</p> <p>(a) No restriction on the number of RELs to be conducted per Zone.</p> <p>(b) Bid for REL to be routed through Member Region and Vice President (Sports Development) so as to reach EFI Sectt 30 days before the commencement of the event for inclusion in the EFI Calendar.</p>	<p>Decision of the house The house perused the recommendation of the EC and approved.</p>	<p>All Secy Gen Member Region VP(SD)</p>																		

Points	Decision/Directions	Action to be taken by
<p>(c) The Bid for REL need not be forwarded to Bid Evaluation Committee for their recommendation.</p> <p>(d) Prospectus and Administrative Instructions for conduct of REL to reach EFI Sectt 15 days prior to conduct of event.</p>		
<p>4.8 FEI Asian Championship Pattaya 2019. The Secretary General flashed the results of the Selection Trials before the house.</p> <p>(a) Dressage : Indl - No qualification Team - No qualification</p> <p>(b) Show Jumping : Indl - No qualification Team - One combination qualified</p> <p>(c) Show Jumping : Indl - One combination qualified Team - Two combinations qualified</p>	<p>Decision of the house The house perused the same.</p>	All
<p>4.9 Acquisition of Property for EFI Office. The Secretary General apprised the house that during last AGM held on 30th Sep 2018, the house had ratified the proposal of acquisition of property at Bikaji Kama Place for EFI Office as recommended by the Committee. However, during EC held on 29th Mar 2019, due deliberation and discussion on the same were undertaken in the house and most of the members in the house were of the opinion that the finances available should be utilised for development of the infrastructure for the sports.</p>	<p>Decision of the house The house perused and approved the same.</p>	All
<p>4.10 De-Recognition of Maharashtra Equestrian Association (MEA). The Secretary General informed the house that consequent to decision during the last AGM held on 30th Sep 2018, Maharashtra Equestrian Association (MEA) would be derecognised if elections were not conducted as per procedure and re-affiliation with the State Olympic Association was not restored within a specific time frame. Failing to comply to the above, MEA was de-recognised wef 1st Dec 2018. MEA has challenged the decision in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi vide Writ Petition (C) No 3361/2019. Next date of hearing is scheduled on 06th Jan 2020.</p>	<p>Decision of the house The house perused the same.</p>	All

Points	Decision/Directions	Action to be taken by
<p>4.11 <u>Termination of Membership.</u> The Secretary General informed the house that membership of members listed at Appx 'H' have been terminated due to outstanding subscriptions above two years and also against requests received from the members for termination of membership.</p>	<p><u>Decision of the house</u> The same were perused by the house and approved.</p>	All
<p>4.12 <u>Action Taken for Improvement of Sport.</u> The Secretary General apprised the house that the following actions have been taken for improvement of Equestrian Sport:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Introduction of REL concept. (b) Incentive on successful conduct of REL. (c) Conduct of minimum seven to eight FEI Events in a Calendar year. (d) Conduct of Clinics/Courses for National/International Judges under qualified officials. (e) Foreign exposures to Junior/Young Riders. (f) Procurement of Equipment like Timer Machine, Show Jumping Sets, Cross Country Set for smooth conduct of Equestrian Events in India. (g) Procurement of Safety Cup for Show Jumping Events since the same being mandatory as per FEI Rules. (h) Incentive to Officials for acquiring Qualifications. 	<p><u>Decision of the house</u> The house perused the same.</p>	All

Points	Decision/Directions	Action to be taken by
<u>AGENDA-III</u>		
<p>5. <u>Passing of Accounts.</u> The Secretary General flashed the details of accounts, income & expenditure for the FY 2018-19 as per AGM notice before the house and asked someone to propose and second the passing of accounts if there are no observation/ objection.</p> <p>At this point of time, Lt Col Sandeep Dewan (Retd) observed that an amount of Rs 4,86,692/- reflected as written off during FY 2017-18 being unrecoverable entry fees. He questioned as to why the entry fees were not recovered and which are the unit/club which have faltered and what action has been initiated by the NF. In reply, the Secretary General informed the house that issue being of previous FY, the details can be ascertained from EFI office and also confirmed that no events are being allotted to the faltering Clubs. The President assured Lt Col Sandeep Dewan (Retd) that he will be provided with a detailed clarification on the point. Lt Col Sandeep Dewan (Retd) further pointed out that the federation is spending huge amounts to procure equipments but these equipment are given to selected clubs/establishments at the discretion of the Secretary General EFI and the same are not available for use of others. The President informed the house that the point has been noted.</p> <p>Lt Col Sandeep Dewan (Retd) observed that Rs 7 Lacs reflected in the audited statement as "to be received from Sports Authority of India (SAI)" on account of reimbursement of salary of Assistant Secretary and why EFI was spending so much money on Assistant Secretary's salary which should be paid by the Government. In reply, the Secy Gen informed the house that the audited statement reflects accounts upto 31st Mar 2019 and the amount in question on account of salary of Assistant Secretary has been received from SAI and nothing is outstanding. Lt Col Sandeep Dewan (Retd) also observed that legal expenses of 18 lacs which was exorbitant and definitely needs to be looked into. EFI has a number of lawyers as members and their services should be explored.</p>	<p><u>Decisions of the house.</u> After deliberation on points raised by honourable members the accounts were passed after being proposed and seconded by Brig Sameer Lanba, VSM and Col Nakul Yadav respectively.</p>	<p>Secy Gen</p>

Points	Decision/Directions	Action to be taken by
<p>The President replied that the charges of lawyers are different and somebody at that point of time had taken a decision which warranted for employment of a highly qualified lawyer for a single hearing. What was the factor which warranted employing X or Y at that point of time can't be referred now. However, your points will be considered on merit.</p> <p>Mr Amir Pasrich observed that in the AGM people were quarrelling on issues pertaining to accounts and other things. He recommended that a Grievance Committee be formed so that anyone who has any grievances that can be sorted out by the Grievance Committee before the AGM in order to streamline the process of AGM. He also recommended that other legal members can help the EFI on legal matters. The Secretary General informed the house that a Grievance Committee does exist but individuals do not want to approach the said committee but rather make baseless allegations during the AGM.</p> <p>Col Ashok Kumar Yadav asked to provide the list of officials who have been given with financial assistance of Rs 15,63,000/- for courses. The Secretary General said that the details of assistance till date will be provided.</p>		
<u>AGENDA-IV</u>		
<p>6. <u>Approval of Proposed Annual Expenditure for FY 2019-20.</u> The Secretary General flashed the proposed expenditure for the year 2019-20 before the house. Details attached at Appx 'J'.</p> <p>Lt Col Sandeep Dewan (Retd) observed on proposed budget of Legal Fees. In response, the President informed Lt Col Sandeep Dewan (Retd) that the amount being proposed is just a budget for 2019-20 and not the actual expenditure.</p> <p>Mr Sanjay Gupta informed the house that legal matters are not as simple as perceived by some hon'ble members. When a case comes before the hon'ble Court it has to be won and it costs money. As regards to the legal fees paid, the same has already been discussed during the last AGM and justified.</p>	<p><u>Decisions of the house.</u></p> <p>The accounts were passed after being proposed and seconded by Col Jaiveer Singh and Brig Deep Ahlawat, VSM respectively.</p>	<p>Secy Gen</p>

Points	Decision/Directions	Action to be taken by
<u>AGENDA-V</u>		
<p>7. <u>Approval of Calendar of Events 2019-20.</u> The Secretary General informed the house about the proposed EFI Calendar for 2019-20 which is attached at Appx 'K'.</p> <p>Maj Ashish Malik requested to conduct more events for Eventing discipline as the National Eventing Championship is scheduled during Mar 2020. The last Eventing event was held in the last week of Sep 2019 and it would be over five months by the time we have the NEC. Brig Deep Ahlawat, VSM, Member Eventing agreed to the genuine point brought forward and recommended to include at least two eventing discipline events before the NEC.</p> <p>Lt Gen Balbir Singh Sandhu, VSM (Retd) recommended that Eventing Infrastructure are held at Meerut, Jaipur, Delhi & Bangalore. One of these centres could be nominated for the NEC but all four places should conduct one Eventing event every calendar year which should include Pre-Novice, Novice, One Star & Two Star Events. Eventing is our strength for Asian Games/International Events. More exposures should be given to the riders and the horses. Brig Deep Ahlawat, VSM, Member Eventing agreed to the recommendation of Lt Gen Balbir Singh Sandhu, VSM (Retd) and said that the feasibility would be explored for conducting the eventing events by clubbing with some other Horse Shows.</p> <p>Col Rajesh Pattu, SJRP, VSM (Retd) informed the house that he on consultation with each and every rider/clubs of his region and thereafter had written to EFI pertaining to venue for conduct of REL. He pointed out that the Federation is taking a stand that if a rider is from Delhi the rider has to acquire one REL qualification in Delhi and for the other qualification had to go travel to Jaipur. So the point came from the civilian riders/clubs that they should be allowed to compete at two RELs at their home town considering huge expenditure on horse transportation.</p>	<p><u>Decisions of the House.</u> After a detailed discussion on the EFI Calendar the house ratified the calendar.</p>	<p>Secy Gen Member Discipline Member Region VP(SD)</p>

Points	Decision/Directions	Action to be taken by
<p>In reply Lt Col MM Rahman, Joint Secretary EFI clarified him that as per the REL guidelines it states two venues which could be in the same city/town. For example in Delhi, one venue could be at APRC and the other at AGL Stables and one need not travel to Jaipur to acquire the second REL qualification. The concept was to diverse the sport into smaller clubs. Lt Col Sandeep Dewan (Retd) said that if REL is the concept to qualify a rider for nationals or international, then why have objection to organising three or four events in one venue and suggested that riders should be able to choose which event he/she would want to go for. Lt Col Rohit Dagar said that EFI is sending a representative for checking the rules and dimensions of the course and all other requirements so there should be no problem for having more RELs in one location. Brig SS Kashyap, Vice President (Sports Development) informed the house that the REL concept has been instituted to spread the sports to smaller clubs. The two venue concept has been brought in so that the sport is not only limited to the large well established clubs but percolate to smaller entities especially the ones which are upcoming. Lt Col Sandeep Dewan (Retd) pointed out that this involves horse transportation and many of the riders are complaining on the same. He further alleged that the number of entries for NEC through REL has reduced drastically and he claimed that the concept of REL had harmed the sport rather than benefitting the sport. Brig SS Kashyap, Vice President (Sports Development) did not agree to the contention of Lt Col Sandeep Dewan (Retd) and replied stating that the Federation has not received any complaint to this effect from any quarter till date. Col Ashok Kumar Yadav informed the house as to what was the genesis of REL and why was it adopted. To sum up the discussion the President assured the house that a holistic view would be taken on the REL venue issues and individual cases pertaining to venue issues can be taken up separately on the merit of the case.</p>		

Points	Decision/Directions	Action to be taken by
<u>AGENDA-VI</u>		
<p>8. <u>Amendment in Statutes.</u> The Secretary General proposed certain amendments to Statutes pertaining to incorporation of the Athletes Commission, the organisation and charter of duties which are attached at Appx 'L'</p> <p>Col Rajesh Pattu, SJRP, VSM (Retd) asked the following questions with regards to the Athlete Commission.</p> <p>(a) What the federation has done with regards to the complaints/grievances received by the federation from the Athletes?</p> <p>(b) If the Athletes Commission does not respond to the athletes what action can be taken against the members of the Athletes Commission?</p> <p>In reply, Lt Col Raj Sangram Singh, Vice Chairperson, Athletes Commission said that he has personally requested all the athletes, to forward their complaints to him in writing for action to be taken. He further informed the house that he had received two complaints from athletes which was forwarded to EFI Secretariat after due screening and deliberation by the members of the athlete commission. The President directed the Athlete Commission to acknowledge every complain received by them and a standing procedure be prepared to resolve the issues of Athletes in a time bound manner. In respect to the first question of Col Rajesh Pattu, SJRP, VSM (Retd), the President informed him that he would not do any post-mortem on matters of the past. Lt Col Sandeep Dewan (Retd) brought out the point that the correspondence made with the federation are not replied or even an acknowledgement for the same is ever forwarded. The President assured that hence forth all correspondences will be acknowledged and dealt with in an appropriate manner.</p> <p>Ms Jyotika Hassanwalia intervened in the discussion and informed the house that she had sent a mail to the Athletes' Commission and she got an acknowledgement within the hour from the Chairperson herself. She mentioned that we were</p>	<p><u>Decision of the house.</u> The house perused the amendments in the statutes and ratified the same.</p>	<p>Athletes' Commission</p> <p>Secy Gen</p>

Points	Decision/Directions	Action to be taken by
<p>wasting so much of time on discussing someone's personal issues and were not talking about the development of sport and what we could do for the riders like her. She urged that we must work as a team without differentiating ourselves as Civilian or Army and requested the house to do something to help the riders who are spending a lot from their own pocket to pursue the sport and passion without any sponsors, rather than hearing someone's personal issues in this forum.</p> <p>Col Ashok Kumar Yadav objected to the frequency in which the statutes were being amended. He referred to the Constitution of India and over the last 40-50 years the Constitution has not seen so many amendments as the statutes of EFI has undergone in the last four years (2015-2019). The Statutes are like a constitution and suggested that frequent changes every year should not be undertaken. The President informed him that there were certain additions which needed incorporation into the statutes and hence the amendments which have led to increase in the number of articles, however most of the original articles remain as such. It was not sacrosanct that the statutes cannot be amended. Lt Gen AJ Singh, VSM (Retd) apprised the house about the necessity of a number of amendments that took place over the last four years. During this period Lt Gen AJ Singh, VSM (Retd) was a member of the EC when the NSDCI 2011 came into force and there were a number of concerns which needed amendment to align the functioning of the federation as per the sports code. The federation was not following certain norms as stipulated in the sports code so a committee was formed to make the necessary changes in the entire Statute in consonance with the requirement by the Sports Ministry. These were the reason for the amendments which have been made in last four years. Now the amendments which was again there was as per requirement of time and if there was something which requires implementation, it should be adopted.</p>		

Points	Decision/Directions	Action to be taken by
<u>AGENDA-VII</u>		
<p>9. <u>Amendment in Technical Guidelines 2016.</u> The Secretary General informed the house that on 07th Sep 2017, all Member Disciplines assembled at the EFI Secretariat and amendments have been made in the Technical Guidelines in line with the latest development in the particular discipline. Views of individuals who sent in suggestions/representations were taken into consideration. The Secretary General requested the house for any suggestion/query before its ratification. The draft Technical Guidelines is attached at Appx 'M'</p> <p>(a) <u>Dressage.</u> No suggestion/query.</p> <p>(b) <u>Eventing.</u> Lt Col Sandeep Dewan (Retd) questioned as to why eventing does have a minimum qualification level/MER as Show Jumping and Dressage. Brig Deep Ahlawat, VSM, Member Eventing replied to the query stating that the same has been incorporated in the Eventing Guidelines and requested the member to go through the same in detail.</p> <p>(c) <u>Show Jumping.</u> No suggestion/query.</p> <p>(d) <u>Endurance.</u> Col Ashok Kumar Yadav objected to the proposed amendments of Endurance rules stating that the same were against the very principle of the event. Since FEI was likely to make changes in the endurance rules, the National rules should not be changed at this point of time. Col CS Sohal (Retd), Member Endurance replied to the query stating that FEI Endurance rules are likely to undergo changes in 2020 and here the National Guidelines were being discussed which have been amended in lines with the FEI principle and whatever anomalies had been found while conducting Endurance events, the same have been addressed to and rectified. The Secretary General apprised Col Ashok Kumar Yadav that in forthcoming FEI AGM, FEI is likely to discuss the Endurance rules in detail due to certain issues raised by Endurance loving countries and European Countries. It would not be fair to say that we have to</p>	<p><u>Decision of the house.</u> The house perused the amendments in Technical Guidelines and ratified the same.</p>	<p>Secy Gen</p> <p>Member Disciplines</p> <p>VP(Tech)</p>

Points	Decision/Directions	Action to be taken by
<p>amend our guidelines only after FEI have amended their Guidelines. Col CS Sohal (Retd) informed the house that changes have been discussed and deliberated in detail by the technical committee during the meeting and only then made these amendments to the technical guidelines of Endurance.</p> <p>(e) <u>Tent Pegging.</u> Mr Mohit Kumar pointed out that no timer machines are being utilized for Tent Pegging events as on date. Col Tarsem Singh Warraich, Member Tent Pegging replied that the same has been incorporated in the new Tech Guidelines and now use of electronic timer would be mandatory for conducting National Events. Mr Mohit Kumar also said that the Indian Team for the World Cup is selected based on their medal achievements only. Tent pegging discipline consists of eight events, four individual and four team events. No player would win a Gold Medal in every event. When the Indian team is selected, the total points of the individual both in the individual events and individual points scored as a team should be taken into consideration. Based on the above performance, the best twelve riders to be short listed as probables, from which the final team can be selected. At times it so happens that a rider secures first position in lance but subsequently does not even qualify for the sword event.</p> <p>Col Tarsem Singh Warraich, Member, Tent Pegging informed the house that the rider points for individual events has now been equalized which was earlier different. He said that all international events are being organized on borrowed horses. For the last Tent Pegging World Cup, riders were shortlisted based on 50% weightage of NEC and 50% weightage of trials conducted on borrowed horses. This methodology yielded good results in the qualifier held in Australia last year. Keeping in view the above, due weightage for the first six positions have been incorporated in the point system in the revised Technical Guidelines.</p>		

Points	Decision/Directions	Action to be taken by
<p>Mr Ahmad Afsar further amplified on Mr Mohit's points and clarified that while selecting the team emphasis should be made to select people into the team who show a consistency in performance both in individual events and team events since at the international events the individual scores of each individual and team events are taken into consideration for final tally of teams.</p> <p>Col Ashok Kumar Yadav informed the house that during the 2016 world cup, the points of all eight events were treated at par in deciding the final team tally. Hence events should not be distinguished as main and subsidiary events in the Technical Guidelines and all the eight events should be considered as main events and point should be allocated accordingly.</p> <p>The Secretary General clarified that the rider point system has now been revised for all individual events. 12 probables will be selected based on the new point system and thereafter a selection trial could be held to select the team amongst these twelve riders and 5 top riders will be selected for the Indian Team. Mr Mohit Kumar further suggested that before allotment of any event to any organiser, the basic infrastructure facilities and other amenities should be properly checked. During the past, tent peggers had experienced a lot of difficulties in terms of water, electricity etc during the events. Col Tarsem Singh Warraich, Member Tent Pegging agreed to his point and referred to the last NEC tent pegging held at Bhondsi. He also assured the house that the next NEC Tent Pegging will be conducted in a befitting manner.</p> <p>Mr Mohit Kumar again suggested that all the eight Tent Pegging events should be conducted in all local horse shows and made a special request to include the same at the Delhi Horse Show. Col Tarsem Singh Warraich, Member Tent Pegging said that the point is valid and will be considered.</p> <p>(f) JNEC. No suggestion/query.</p>		

Points	Decision/Directions	Action to be taken by
<u>AGENDA-VIII</u>		
10. <u>New Memberships.</u> The Secretary General flashed the names of all new Life Members, Individual Members & Clubs/Units members approved by the EC before the house. Details of new members are as per Appx 'N' .	<u>Decisions of the house.</u> The house approved membership of 60 Life Members, 01 Individual Member, 04 Club Members and 01 State Association member.	Secy Gen
<u>AGENDA-IX</u>		
11. <u>Points Received from Members.</u>		
11.1 <u>Ms Jyotika Hassanwalia.</u> The Secretary General informed the house that the points submitted by Ms Jyotika Hassanwalia were technical in nature and the same had been referred to the Technical Committee for incorporation into the technical guidelines and since Ms Jyotika was present, the Secretary General requested her to elaborate on her issues. Ms Jyotika brought out that for any event only the first three positions are reflected on the federation website and why not the entire score sheet. The President agreed to the recommendations and assured the house that henceforth the complete result sheet will be published in the website. Ms Jyotika Hassanwalia further suggested to incorporate a two phase Show Jumping event. Lt Col Sandeep Dewan (Retd) clarified where such competitions can be conducted at local level but the same cannot be considered for Nationals. The President requested Ms Jyotika Hassanwalia to put in her point to the Athlete Commission and decision on the same would be intimated to her after deliberation by the technical committee.	<u>Decisions of the house.</u> The house perused the same.	Secy Gen Athlete Commission Member Show Jumping
11.2 <u>Mr Kirat Nagra.</u> The Secretary General informed the house that the points received from Mr Kirat Nagra were pertaining to the development of sport and the same has been referred to the Technical Committee while amending the Tech Guidelines.	<u>Decisions of the house.</u> The house perused the same.	Secy Gen

Points	Decision/Directions	Action to be taken by
<p>11.3 <u>Ms Sweta Mirdha Hooda</u>. The Secretary General informed the house that the points received from Ms Sweta Mirdha Hooda were technical in nature pertaining to Dressage and she herself presented the same to the Tech Committee for consideration. In reference to the above the President informed the house that he as the President of the federation is open to valid suggestions and anyone desirous to meet him can do so by seeking an appointment.</p>	<p><u>Decisions of the house</u>. The house perused the same.</p>	<p>Secy Gen</p>
<p>11.4 <u>Lt Col Sandeep Dewan (Retd)</u>. The Secretary General informed the house that several mails had been received from Lt Col Sandeep Dewan (Retd) with the following allegations.</p> <p>(a) <u>Improper Recording of minutes of the last AGM</u>. The Secy Gen informed the house that the point was discussed in detail under Agenda I</p> <p>(b) <u>Non discussion of allegations of corruption and misuse of federation fund</u>. The Secy Gen informed the house that the same had been discussed in the last AGM held on 30th Sep 2019 and the same had been justified.</p> <p>(d) <u>Various Mails to President & Secretary General</u>. The Secretary General informed the house that each and every mail sent by Lt Col Sandeep Dewan (Retd) had been put up to the Executive Committee and the EC had deliberated on the same where necessary and the same are minuted as proceedings of the EC and available on the EFI website. Lt Col Sandeep Dewan (Retd) expressed his disagreement to the clarification given by the Secretary General and as a member of the federation expected a reply/acknowledgement to all mails/ correspondence addressed to the federation. The President assured Lt Col Sandeep Dewan (Retd) that his point was taken into account and all the mails henceforth would be acknowledged/replied to, within a time frame.</p>	<p>The house perused the same.</p>	<p>Secy Gen</p>

Points	Decision/Directions	Action to be taken by
<p>11.5 Mr Ahmad Afsar introduced himself as a Life Member of EFI and the Secretary of Equiwings, Noida a registered club with EFI. He mentioned that Equiwings had organised an international Tent Pegging Championship in 2010, 2012, 2013 and 2015 which were fairly successful. With conduct of these events India had established itself as a major Tent Pegging hub. During the 2015 International Tent Pegging event conducted at Guatam Buddha University, Greater Noida in which 12 countries participated, certain issues related to funding occurred and differences cropped up between the federation and Equiwings. Prior to the year 2015 Govt grants were sanctioned to conduct the events and taking reference of previous years it was presumed that the federation would cater for Govt grants for conduct of the events. Unfortunately, the EFI did not write to the Ministry of Sports for sanction of funds for the international event and as an organiser we were not informed of the same. In view of the above the federation was requested to waive off the entry fees for the event which otherwise was supposed to be deposited with the federation. As an organiser we had incurred huge expenditures on account of boarding, lodging and transportation of the foreign participants. However this issue was not suitably handled at the federation and Equiwings was branded as a defaulter. There are several Clubs which organise local horse shows and get financial assistance/waiver from the federation. We being an organiser which has continuously organised a number of international events where huge expenses are involved, and the same waiver/assistance support is not extended from the federation. Col Tarsem Singh Warraich, Member Tent Pegging recommended that clubs/individuals coming forward to organise tent pegging events should be encouraged.</p> <p>The President assured that the concern were noted and necessary action would be initiated to resolve the issue.</p>		Secy Gen

Points	Decision/Directions	Action to be taken by
<p>11.6 <u>Ms Ameera Pasrich</u> brought out that the sporting horses travel in a very unsafe manner in open trucks. She suggested that the federation could cater for proper horse floats for transportation of horses.</p> <p>Mr Ameer Pasrich emphasised the need of proper horse floats and suggested the federation allocate about Rs 10 Lakh for a float and over the period there could be about 04 horse floats per region for easy transportation of horses which can be taken on rent both by Army and Civilian riders.</p> <p>The President said the point was noted and the same will be considered if feasible.</p>		<p>VP(Fin)</p> <p>Secy Gen</p>
<p>11.7 <u>Lt Col Guatam Das (Retd)</u>. Requested that for eventing we should import walers from Australia. Young walers have an advantage of accompanying their mothers in the country side and jungles which helps in their development of cross country acumen. There are about 5 stations in Australia where walers are available.</p> <p>The President appreciated the suggestion made by Lt Col Gautam Das (Retd).</p>		<p>Secy Gen</p>
<p>11.8 <u>Lt Col Amit Sinsinwar</u> informed the house that we as a federation are working on a four year cycle from Asian Games to Asian Games. During the last Asian Games we did well but did not try to qualify for Olympics and countries which were behind us have qualified for Olympics. He recommended that preparation for the next Asian Games should begin right away instead of waiting for the last year.</p> <p>Col PP Singh (Retd) informed the house that FEI has agreed to grant Asia the Asian Championship which is based on similar lines as the Asian Games. So instead of the 4 year cycle of Asian Games we have similar events every two years and we should participate. He questioned the</p>		<p>Secy Gen</p> <p>Member Eventing</p>

Points	Decision/Directions	Action to be taken by
<p>participants as to why the same importance was not accorded to this championship. The 1st edition is happening in Thailand this December and probably it's too late this time but we must make all efforts to participate in the Asian Championship since it is of similar standard as Asian Games.</p> <p>Lt Col Amit Sinsinwar did not agree to the explanation given by Col PP Singh (Retd) and argued that the conditions were not ideal to compete for the trials with exorbitant temperature and humidity during the trials. He suggested to have a one star eventing events every month round the year.</p> <p>Brig Deep Ahlawat, VSM Member Eventing suggested that the riders can put up the points of concern through the athlete commission to the Executive Committee for consideration and the same would be deliberated upon. For the trials for Asian Championship the standards were set based on the event to be held in Pattaya.</p> <p>Lt Col Amit Sinsinwar pointed out that as a country we do not have sufficient no of officials and the competence level of our officials was lower than that of foreign officials. He suggested efforts should be made to prepare more officials.</p> <p>Brig Deep Ahlawat, VSM, Member Eventing mentioned that recently the federation had qualified and made several officials which had probably not happened in the past several years and Secretary General would testify to the same. Mr Naresh Tehlan, Comdt had visited Poland recently and had gone to upgrade himself as a Course Designer.</p> <p>The Secretary General informed the house that a FEI Official course for eventing has been planned in Meerut in Mar 2020.</p>		
<p>11.9 Mr Eklavya Sharma apprised the house that he was a qualified Course Designer for Show Jumping and that he was not getting enough opportunities to officiate as Course Designer and during the last one year he has got only one such exposure.</p>	<p>The President informed him that his point was noted and necessary action would be undertaken to give him more exposures.</p>	<p>Secy Gen</p>

Points	Decision/Directions	Action to be taken by
11.10 Col BS Lakra (Retd) informed the house that the EFI Calendar shows only one event for endurance and we must have more event for this discipline.	The Secretary General clarified that during the FEI Course for Endurance at Mumbai, all the stake holders decided to have atleast 06 events and once the Bids are received the same will be incorporated into the calendar.	Secy Gen Member Endurance
11.11 Mr Gunesh Purandare suggested to the house about the grassroot level development of the sport and requested the technical support of the federation and the state associations to take the sport forward. When compared with other sports equestrian is lagging behind and one should leave apart the differences and move ahead and as the President mentioned in his opening address about the turning point the federation was at this point of time. In Maharashtra, Gunesh mentioned about provisioning of 3 horse floats for the use of its members in which the cost of fuel and wages of driver were to be paid and the float could be used by all eligible members.	The house applauded the effort.	
11.12 Col Rajiv Dahiya as a member of the Selection Committee submitted to the house that for the Asian Championship we should field a team especially for eventing since the riders have put their horses through adverse weather conditions to qualify for the trials. All possibilities to send the Eventing Team for the Asian Championship should be explored and efforts put in by the athletes must be rewarded by sending the team.		Secy Gen
11.13 Col Nakul Yadav apprised the house that there are about 42 Army ASC Clubs running the sport in the country and many civil clubs were also doing the same. As far as the development part, these 42 clubs having about 220 horse and efforts were made to post serving athletes to these units/establishments so that the sporting career is pursued. He further requested EFI to give an impetus to these riding clubs be it Army or Civil as a Role On Plan in the form of infrastructure, horses or trainers.	The President appreciated the idea and concept and assured a role on road map for infrastructure improvement for both Army and Civil clubs including Schools.	Secy Gen

Points	Decision/Directions	Action to be taken by
<p>11.14 Maj Ashish Malik suggested to the house to incorporate Indoor Eventing at the Delhi Horse Show to show case the skills of Eventing riders to the spectators since the Delhi Horse Show is the largest show with large and wide viewership.</p> <p>Brig Deep Ahlawat, VSM, Member Eventing suggested that this concept can be accepted and tried out for Show purpose.</p>		<p>Secy Gen</p> <p>Member Eventing</p> <p>VP(Tech)</p>
<p>11.15 Lt Col Sandeep Dewan (Retd) apprised the house that any person who wishes to participate outside the country has to obtain an NOC from the federation at a cost of USD 250.00. This is inexplicable as no other federation charges its members to participate abroad, rather they encourage them.</p> <p>The President took note of the same and assured him the same would be looked into.</p> <p>Secretary General explained that at one point this NOC fees was also charged from Junior which are now exempt upto 18 years and is applicable to all riders whether based in India or Middle east and participating outside India.</p> <p>Col SS Ahlawat, VSM (Retd) added that there was nothing wrong in charging for NOCs.</p>		<p>Secy Gen</p>
<u>AGENDA-X</u>		
<p>12. Felicitatation. The Secretary General informed the house that after a long gap, an athlete has been awarded Arjuna Award in equestrian. Mr Fouaad Mirza has been felicitated with the prestigious sporting honour on 29th Aug 2019 for his exceptional performance in Eventing.</p>	<p>The house applauded the rider for his achievement.</p>	<p>Secy Gen</p>

Points	Decision/Directions	Action to be taken by
<u>AGENDA-XI</u>		
<p>13. <u>Elections of Executive Committee & Selection Committee.</u> The Secy Gen informed the house that the members of the following post of the Executive Committee had completed their tenure/had resigned and new members were to be re-elected for each post:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) President (b) Vice President (Fin) (c) Vice President (Tech) (d) Secretary General (e) Treasurer (f) Member Medication Control & Equine Welfare (g) Member Jumping (h) Member Dressage (j) Regional Member (North) (k) Regional Member (Central) (l) Regional Member (West) (m) Member Selection Committee (05) <p>He further informed the house that the notice for elections was published on 27 Aug 2019 and the process for election to the aforesaid post initiated. However with regard to the election process a court order from the High Court of Delhi dated 26 Sep 2019 has been received and therefore requested the Chairman Election Commission to come to the dais to explain to the house the contents of the ibid court order. Col Kuldeep Magotra, Chairman Election Commission apprised the house that the election notice was issued on 27th AUG 2019. Total of 18 nominations were received for the 11 posts of Executive Committee and 06 nominations were received for the 5 posts of Selection Committee. Post scrutiny as per the eligibility guidelines two nominations for posts of the Executive Committee and one nomination for the post of member Selection Committee were rejected and thereafter only 16 valid nominations for EC and 5 valid nominations for Selection Committee remained. Consequently six withdrawals of nominations were received within the stipulated time frame. Post withdrawal, it was seen that only single</p>	The house perused the same.	Secy Gen

Points	Decision/Directions	Action to be taken by
nomination remained for all the posts for which elections were to be held except Regional Member (West) for which no valid nomination was received. Hence the requirement of resorting to voting was not there. He added that in the normal course, the single nominations against each post would have been declared elected unopposed. However in light of the Court order by the High Court of Delhi dated 26 Sep 2019 wherein it is directed that the election process would be executed but the results thereof would not be declassified without prior permission from the court. The entire proceedings of the elections was sealed and kept in safe custody of the Chairman Election Commission for further intimation to the Hon'ble Court.		

14. At the end to sum up the proceedings the President extended a vote of thanks to the following outgoing members of EC/SC for their immense contribution during the last term in their respective roles which has helped take the sport and the federation to new heights :-.

- (a) Mr Jitu Virwani, Vice President (Fin)
- (b) Brig GS Puri, Vice President (Tech)
- (c) Col RK Swain, Secretary General
- (d) Col Manoj Yadav, Treasurer
- (e) Brig MA Kelkar (Retd), Member Medication Control & Equine Welfare
- (f) Mr Naresh Tehlan, Commandant, Member Jumping
- (g) Col SS Ahlawat, VSM (Retd), Member Dressage
- (h) Col NS Sandhu, Regional Member (North)
- (j) Col Rajesh Pattu, SJRP, VSM (Retd), Regional Member (West)
- (k) Dr Sanjay Gupta, Regional Member (Central)
- (l) Brig Adil Mahmood, Member Selection Committee
- (m) Brig Sameer Lanba, VSM, Member Selection Committee
- (n) Col Rajiv Kumar Dahiya, Member Selection Committee

(o) Col HR Sunil, Member Selection Committee

(p) Ms Anisha Sodhi Bhandari, Member Selection Committee

15. Finally, the President conveyed a word of gratitude to every member for having participated constructively and meaningfully in the AGM 2019.

Case No: 072/EFI/2019

Station: New Delhi

Dated : 26 Nov 2019

Copy to:-

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

Sports Authority of India

Indian Olympic Association

Registrar of Societies

Office of the Commissioner of Industries, Govt of N.C.T of Delhi,
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Internal

All EC Members

Federation website EFI



(MM Rahman)

Lt Col

Joint Secretary

