Geschrieben von: Grania Willis/ FEI-Pressestelle
Donnerstag, 12. März 2015 um 12:26

Lausanne. Das sogenannte Büro als Exekutive des Reiterweltverbandes (FEI) griff endlich nach den tierquälerischen Ereignissen bei verschiedenen Distanzwettbewerben in den Vereinigten Arabischen Emiraten hart durch und warf mit sofortiger Wirkung die dortige nationale Föderation (FN) auf unbestimmte aus dem Dachverband.

The FEI Bureau has suspended the National Federation of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for an indeterminate period following an investigation by the FEI into major horse welfare issues and non-compliance with FEI Rules and Regulations in the discipline of Endurance.

The Bureau, chaired by FEI President Ingmar De Vos, was unanimous in its decision to suspend the UAE National Federation.

Under the terms of the suspension, which has been imposed immediately, the UAE National Federation may not attend or be represented at any session or meeting of any body of the FEI, may not organise any international events, and its members cannot participate in any international events. However, the Bureau has ruled that UAE athletes from disciplines other than Endurance may compete under the FEI flag in international competitions organised outside the UAE.

The Bureau has clearly outlined to the UAE Federation that any potential reinstatement to FEI membership is dependent on the UAE Federation signing an agreement with the FEI under which the UAE Federation pledges to take such action as the FEI Bureau deems necessary to assure the FEI and all stakeholders that the UAE Federation is protecting the welfare of the horse and complying fully with the FEI Rules and Regulations.

"The decision to suspend a National Federation is not something that is taken lightly and we only should do this if no other remedy can be found," the FEI President said. "Sadly this was the only option left, but we have to take our responsibility and must never be afraid of tackling major issues head-on. Where horse welfare is concerned the FEI has to show leadership and solve problems in a structural way without making any concessions.

"We were confident that strict enforcement of the new rules implemented on 1 August 2014 following adoption of the recommendations from the Endurance Strategic Planning Group would be effective in reducing the numbers of catastrophic injuries and fatalities in the UAE, but regretfully this has not been the case. There have also been other major non-compliance issues, so in the end we had no other choice than taking this drastic measure to deal with an unacceptable situation."

As an interim emergency measure to protect horse welfare and preserve the integrity of FEI rules and regulations at FEI events while the FEI Bureau was considering the Executive Board's recommendations for further action, the Secretary General Sabrina Zeender removed the two remaining Endurance events in the UAE from the FEI calendar two weeks ago, a move that garnered widespread support from National Federations and welfare groups.

The UAE National Federation has been notified of the suspension by the FEI Secretary General today, 12 March 2015. The UAE Federation has 30 days to appeal the suspension to the FEI Tribunal.

Separately, the FEI has requested the Equestrian Community Integrity Unit to conduct a full investigation into allegations of fake events and the duplication of results at FEI Endurance events in the UAE.

The FEI Bureau is made up of the President, Ingmar De Vos (BEL); 1st Vice President and Chair of the Jumping Committee, John Madden (USA); 2nd Vice President and Chair of FEI Regional Group VII, HE Sheikh Khalid Bin Abdulla Al Khalifa (BRN); Chair of Group VI, Luiz Roberto Giugni (BRA); Chair of the Dressage Committee, Frank Kemperman (NED); Chair of the Athletes' Committee, Maria Gretzer (SWE); Chair of Group V, Carmen Barrera (ESA); Chair of Group IX, Mary Binks (KEN); Chair of Group III, Sergey Buikevich (KAZ); Chair of the Eventing Committee, Giuseppe Della Chiesa (ITA); Chair of the Driving Committee, Karoly Fugli (HUN); Chair of Group II, Dr Hanfried Haring (GER); Chair of Group VIII, Nai Yue Ho (SIN); Chair of the Veterinary Committee, John McEwen (GBR); Chair of Group I, Armagan Özgörkey (TUR); Chair of Group IV Mark Samuel (CAN); and Chair of the Endurance Committee, Brian Sheahan (AUS). The Chair of the Audit & Compliance Committee, Brian Mangan (IRL), is a non-voting member.