



Equiforum Belgium 2024

Wed 21st February

Session 1 – Event Standards

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Introduction

- What establishes the standards that events & shows set out to achieve?
- How are these standards measured, checked and reviewed?
- What tools and help is available for organisers to meet good standards?
- What challenges do today's organisers face in delivering high quality shows and events?

How are standards set?

- As international governing body, FEI seeks to set consistent standards across the sport, around the world
- Framework of regulation defines these standards and backs this up with processes to monitor and report
- Standards set by regulation include field of play dimensions, stabling, veterinary services and equipment (eg. dressage arenas, jumping obstacles etc)
- In parallel, most NFs have own framework to set and maintain standards – often consistent with FEI
- Standards are also be set by expectations of athletes, owners & grooms eg. catering, wifi, toilets & showers etc – undefined, change over time


Are standards & expectations being met?

- This question was considered through recent FEI 'Key Event Requirements' project
- Set out to establish which aspects of event delivery are considered the most critical
- What standards/expectations are/are not being achieved?
- FEI conducted global stakeholder survey in 2021/22
- Questions covered 50+ aspects of event delivery across 6 categories - stabling, field of play, training, horse inspections, event facilities & services (food, accommodation, transport, toilets, showers etc) & accessibility

About the survey – what was asked

FEI Event Standards - Stakeholders Survey

Stabling

Do you experience issues with any of the following aspects of Stabling at events ? 

	Yes	No
Cleanliness & biosecurity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall security & access control	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

About the survey – what was asked


FEI Event Standards - Stakeholders Survey

Stabling

Do you experience

Cleanliness & bio

Overall security

Typically, do you experience issues concerning the Stabling aspects you selected across 'All levels of events' or only at 'Specific level(s) of events' ? 

All levels of events

Specific level(s) of events



Cleanliness & biosecurity

If you selected 'Specific level(s) of events', kindly elaborate

About the survey – what was asked


FEI Event Standards - Stakeholders Survey

Stabling

Do you experience


Cleanliness & bio

Overall security

Typically, do you experience issues concerning the Stabling aspects you selected across 'All levels of events' or only at 'Specific level(s) of events' ? 

Cleanliness & bio

If you selected

What is the main type of issue/challenge you face in relation to each of the Stabling aspects you selected ? 

Cleanliness & biosecurity

If you selected 'Other', please specify

Financial resources

Human resources

Time constraints

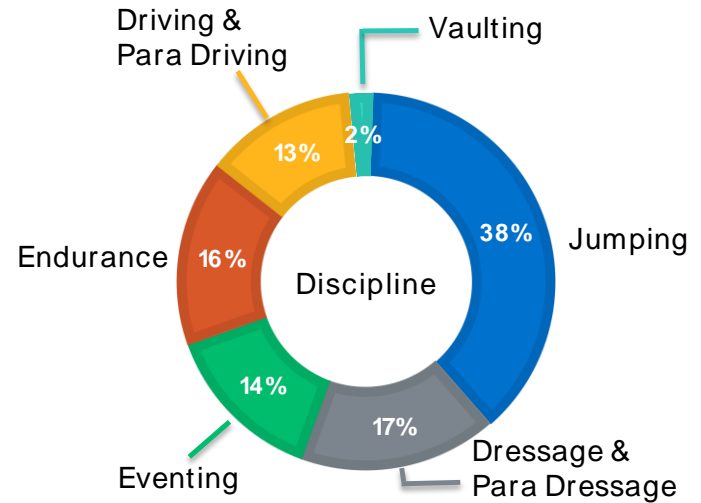
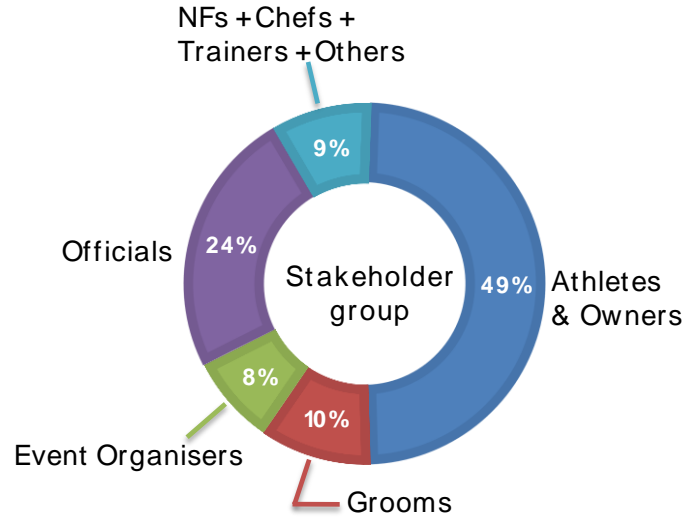
Lack of clear guidelines & standards

Other

Asked only to Event organisers

About the survey – summary of responses

2000+ RESPONDEES



Top 20 – room for improvement...

1	WiFi access, screen(s) covering FoP, running order, & results
2	Access to power points
3	Showers (number, location, warm water availability)
4	Wash areas (number of places, water pressure)
5	Refreshments in Stable area
6	WCs (number, location, cleanliness)
7	Security & access control
8	Lunging area (size, layout)
9	Ventilation, lighting, & temperature control
10	Footing in the stable area (firm, even, rubber mats)

11	Horse arrivals and departures (coordination, access)
12	Storage (tack/horse equipment, feed, & bedding)
13	Event catering (quality, frequency/access)
14	Isle width
15	Cleanliness & biosecurity
16	General riding/hacking/exercise/grazing
17	Assistance on arrival (parking, accreditation, etc.)
18	Training areas (number of, size, layout)
19	Warm-up (size & proximity to FoP)
20	Wheelchair accessibility

Green – standard driven by expectation

Red – standard defined/part-defined by regulation

Then we asked ourselves....

- **Are existing regulations sufficiently clear and objective?**
- **If regulations do not exist, how do we ensure that these aspects are delivered in line with expectation; is regulation and/or clear guidance required?**
- **What should be done when requirements and/or expectations are not met?**

Key Event Requirements system developed

1 Event biosecurity

2 Veterinary services & facilities

3 Stable cleanliness and disinfection

4 Stable security & access control

5 Stable size

6 Stable ventilation

7 Drinking water for horses in Stables

8 Fire precautions & safety procedures in Stables

9 Stable area circulation

10 Horse inspection

11 Medical services

12 Field of Play

13 Adequate availability to training/schooling

14 Footing

How does KER system work?

- Underpinned by clear & specific regulation
- Monitored and reported on by FEI Officials via established post event reporting

• IT captures KER responses on dashboard, automatically sending notifications to relevant department



The screenshot shows a dashboard titled 'Shows' with a table of event results. The table has columns for Venue, Start date, Discipline, Event, and 14 KER categories (KER 1 to KER 14). The data is as follows:

Venue	Start date	Discipline	Event	KER 1	KER 2	KER 3	KER 4	KER 5	KER 6	KER 7	KER 8	KER 9	KER 10	KER 11	KER 12	KER 13	KER 14
Netherlands Groningen	03/01/2024	Jumping	CSI1*, CSI2*	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
United States Thermal CA	04/01/2024	Dressage	CDI-W, CDI1*, CDI2*, CDI3*, CDIY	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
United Arab Emirates Dubai	04/01/2024	Jumping	CSI2*, CSIYH1*	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Bahrain Sakhir, Bahrain International Endurance Village	04/01/2024	Endurance	CEI1* 100, CEI2* 120 CIM	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
New Zealand	06/01/2024	Luminaire	CSI1*-W	YES	YES	YES	N/A	YES	YES	YES	YES	N/A	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

- Investigation, OC notification, plan & formal commitment to rectify prior to next event

Standards driven by expectation, not regulation.....

What drives good standards in these cases?

- OC knowledge, diligence, desire and ability to do ‘best job’
- Feedback from riders and other stakeholders
- Whether or not riders return year after year
- Seeing and sharing ‘best practice’
- Advice from experienced officials, judges etc
- Guidance from governing bodies – FEI and National Federations

FEI Knowledgebase – Event Organisers Guide

The screenshot displays the FEI Knowledgebase website interface. At the top, the FEI logo and 'FÉDÉRATION EQUESTRE INTERNATIONALE' are visible, along with an 'ADVANCED SEARCH' button. A navigation menu includes 'FAQ Home' and 'All categories'. The main content area features a decorative border of colorful icons and the text 'FEI Knowledgebase'. Below this, there is a paragraph of introductory text and a link to the 'Event Organisers Guide'. On the right side, a sidebar titled 'Questions in Event Organisers Guide' lists 15 frequently asked questions with their respective view counts.

FEI Knowledgebase provides access to information, documents, photos and other resources to assist people involved in organising and delivering equestrian events and competitions. It is an interactive library which will direct you to useful and relevant web pages and websites, as well as enabling users to download documents (venue plans, field of play layout drawings, templates, past event reports etc), and view photos showing all aspects of venue and facility design and event operations.

FEI Knowledgebase is constantly being developed with new articles being added and additional documents and photos being made available. If you have any feedback or ideas about additional content you would like to see included please email knowledgebase@fei.org.

Access to the FEI Knowledgebase **Event Organisers Guide** is open to all. Some information relating to Olympic Games, Paralympic Games and Championships is

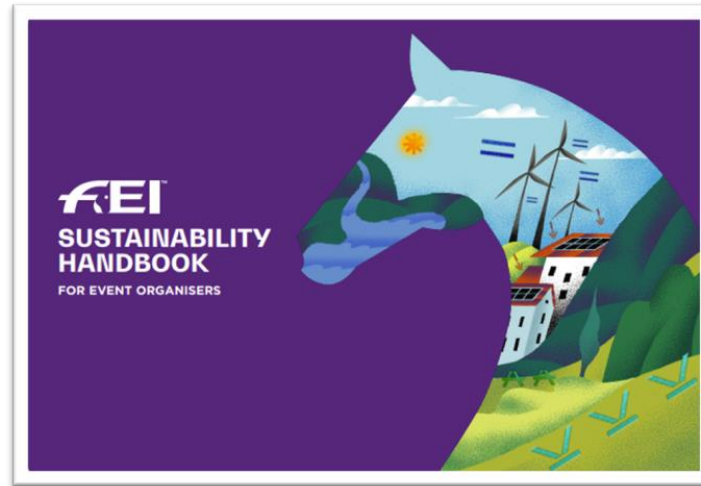
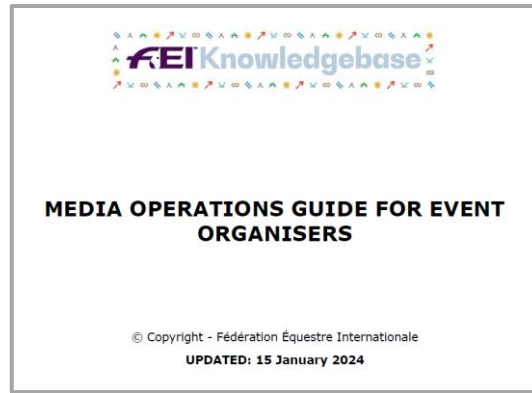
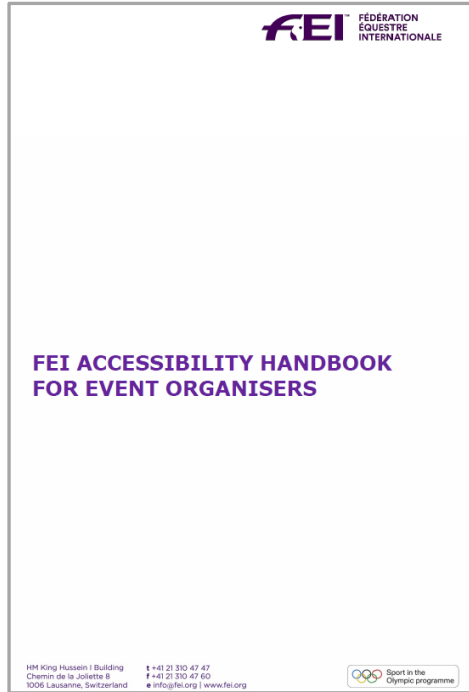
Questions in Event Organisers Guide

FAQs

Page 1 out of 2 Pages

- 1.1 - Why organise an international FEI event? (28217 views)
- 1.2 - What discipline? (28194 views)
- 1.3 - What type and level of competition? (37113 views)
- 1.4 - Applying to host FEI competitions or events (inc FEI Calendar) (31709 views)
- 1.5 - FEI World Challenge Competitions (25807 views)
- 2.1 - Setting up an Organising Committee (31706 views)
- 2.2 - Volunteers (27821 views)
- 2.3 - FEI Officials (36074 views)
- 3.1 - Venue & Facilities (39154 views)
- 3.2 - Footing (Field of Play, Warm-Up & Training Arenas) (32360 views)
- 3.3 - Accessibility Guidance (9326 views)
- 4.1 - Budgeting & Finance (41222 views)
- 4.2 - Producing an FEI Schedule (26576 views)
- 4.3 - Invitations and Competition Entries (31994 views)
- 4.4 - Competition Scoring, Timing & Results (28647 views)
- 4.5 - Show Secretary (35958 views)
- 4.6 - Show Office (26341 views)
- 4.7 - General Event Management & Operations (68255 views)
- 4.7.1 - Stable Security & Stewarding at FEI Events (guidelines & requirements) (30959 views)
- 4.7.2 - Facilities, Services & Conditions for Grooms (14759 views)
- 4.8 - Discipline Specific Guidelines & Resources (26543 views)
- 4.8.1 - Discipline Specific Guidance - Vaulting (24704 views)
- 4.8.2 - Discipline Specific Guidance - Para Dressage (9091 views)
- 4.8.3 - Organising Classification at Para Equestrian Events (Para Dressage & Para Driving) (9183 views)
- 4.9 - Sustainability at FEI Events (33636 views)
- 5.1 - Media Operations & Press Relations (13471 views)

Other FEI guidance



What gets in the way of delivering good standards?

- 'Financial constraints' was number one challenge cited by organisers responding to FEI global stakeholder survey
- Whether standards driven by regulation or expectation, costs have risen
- CSI5* reported 33% increase in costs in 10 years (2013-2023)
- Challenging commercial climate = impact on sponsorship income
- World economy, high inflation, increased living costs = reduced disposable income = impact on spectator income

Discussion...

- Are expectations and challenges faced by FEI events the same for national events in Belgium?
- Are standards ever increasing/improving - is this being driven by increased regulation or higher expectation from riders, grooms etc?
- What challenges are facing organisers in Belgium in trying to meet standards and expectations?
- What financial challenges are today's organisers faced with?
- Can we learn from other sports/events – do they face same demands and challenges and if so, how are they overcoming these?
- What needs to be addressed/done/changed to enable organisers to deliver financially viable and sustainable shows?
- Does temporary vs permanent facilities make a difference to event viability?