

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ARABIAN HORSERACING AUTHORITIES



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Conclusion of the 5th Pattern Race Committee of IFAHR:

at: France Galop / 46, place Abel Gance / 92100 Boulogne / France

Tuesday 7th of October 2008 – 10 a.m. at France Galop

Invitation made by: Comte Jean Pierre de Gasté
c/o AFAC France

Participants: Comte Jean-Pierre de Gasté / France
Mr. JP Chables / France
Mr. Neil Abrahams / U.A.E.
Mr Graham Walcroft /UK
Mrs Georgina Tomkins /UK
Mr. Bo Gilborg / Scandinavia
Mr. Wieger de Ruiten / Holland
Mr. Michael Fenton / Qatar
Mr. Cihat Guruz / Turkey
Mr Taylan Alper Karer / Turkey
Mr Harald Siemen / Germany

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**CONVENING FOR THE 5th PATTERN RACE & HANDICAPPER COMMITTEE
MEETING :**

Tuesday 7th of October 2008 – 10 a.m. at France Galop

A G E N D A

1. Conclusion of last Pattern Race Committee Meeting
2. Review of Group Races run in every country for the year 2007
3. Evaluation of Group races per country in 2007
4. Respect of Pattern Race Committee's decisions by all country members
5. Program of Group Races per country for 2008 and 2009
6. Harmonization of programs of Group Races between countries for the season 2008-2009
7. Alignment of handicap ratings between country members
8. Publication of the Group Race of all country members on IFAHR website
9. Any other business
10. Next meeting

Documents to provide for the meeting by each country member in at least 10 copies:

- Handicap ratings of the horses in your country
- Evaluation of the level of rating of all Group races in your country

October 7th, 2008 IFAHR Pattern Committee Meeting

Meeting started 09:35 at offices of France Galop, Paris, France

Welcome and opening comments by the Chairman Jean-Pierre de Gaste (FR).

The Chairman made a summary of the current situation of the Pattern Race Committee.

The Pattern Race organisation has been submitted by France in October 2005, and within a few months, by the beginning of 2006, a system was created to oversee the regulation of Group races between eleven countries”.

However, to be fully efficient, the pattern race system should be based on an International standard for ratings to harmonize the various systems worldwide. This is now the next goal on which the committee will work to establish an International classification within the coming year.

A list of official handicappers is required to ensure good communication throughout the committee. The list is being assembled and will be distributed shortly.

All countries will exchange ratings to allow, at the next meeting, the coordination of each country's scale into an accepted harmonized system.

Handicappers working in a jurisdiction will know their horses very well. They therefore should be able to offer an accurate assessment of a horse's ability.

The Chairman further commented that countries are not required to change their ratings, but as a group, we will develop a system that will allow all countries to then calculate their ratings for an International classification.

All members were offered to comment on their current system and forward thoughts.

Neil Abrahams (UAE): by harmonizing the system under which all jurisdictions racing Arabians operate we achieve a number of important goals.

Firstly, potential buyers are able to better understand a horse's value as a horse rated 90 in France will be expected to perform at that level should the horse be exported.

Secondly, breeders will better be able to understand the race records of potential foreign stallions as their success in Group racing will be clear and listed in a common format.

Thirdly, horses will be registered quickly in new jurisdictions as the time required to research their race records will be dramatically reduced.

Fourth, horses being offered for sale abroad will be more attractive to potential buyer as they will have confidence in the ratings the horses have established elsewhere.

Michael Fenton (Qatar): indicated that ratings in Qatar are somewhat lower than in previous years and that he expects the ratings to rise in the future now that a new handicapper has arrived for the coming season.

Bo Gilborg (Scandinavia): Arab racing integrated into Thoroughbred racing. Agree that a general scale is required and an internationally accepted weight for age scale. Internationally, ratings should be accepted and respected by all countries.

Graham Walcock (GB): British ratings are toward the high side in comparison to other countries. It is important that ratings are harmonized to allow horses to have a more equal rating worldwide.

Wieger de Ruiter (NL): Not the official handicapper, but Chairman of the DARC. New handicapper has now begun and not yet ready to report on Arab racing. They are interested in the German ratings as many Dutch horses race over the boarder. He noted however that an allowance has been made for local horses in the Group races run in Germany.

The Chairman mentions that none IFAHR Group Race can include such conditions.

(TJK): Handicappers work on both breeds. 38% of races are handicaps ranging from (1-125) and horses are rated within those limits. Ratings in Turkey are based around the wagering system.

The Chairman reminded Turkey of the rules of the pattern committee as previously they were allotted two group races, one group one and one group two. In previous meetings this point has been made.

Harald Siemen (DE): Working for German Jockey Club as local and International handicapper. He is now handicapping Arab races in Germany. There is a need weight for age scale on IFAHR site and ratings from all countries. We need a method of converting ratings to an International scale looking at the top horses worldwide.

Michael Fenton (QA) mentioned that previously the IFAHR had maintained a system for the handicappers to record their ratings for races on the website and again that system should be available.

The Chairman reported that he had previously requested this information from the IFAHR secretary but had received response that no document regarding such former files was available.

The Chairman, then, proposes that a system for establishing 'Listed' race status must be created to allow races with large prize money to be immediately established with pattern race status. He reported that the Qatar World Cup was to be run under the French Breeders' Cup system in order for the race to have group one status.

A discussion regarding the level of prize money in pattern races indicated that there was a general agreement that the pattern must be ratings based not based on the level of the prize money.

A discussion and proposal established a minimum prize structure of 15,000 euro for all new allocations for listed races. A vote was taken with 100% support for the proposal.

Agenda: One:

The Chairman reviewed the 'Conclusion of the last Pattern Committee'. The committee approved the report unanimously.

Two + Three: Need to review Group races to ensure integrity of racing by following the rule as close as possible to the Thoroughbred Pattern system. The committee will review the ratings of the first five finishers to know the average rating of races over a three year period. However, it was agreed that the 'Evaluation of Group Races' would be delayed to the next meeting to allow all countries time to prepare their detailed reports.

Four: Reference to Turkey (above). Further that the Russian Jockey Club be advised that races cannot be published as a Group One IFAHR race without proper certification. A letter has been agreed by the IFAHR Executive to be sent to the UAE and Russia.

Five: Program of races needs to be harmonized to create an International circuit. UAE and Qatar to liaise on this matter and also England, France and Germany will arrange a meeting in the future for the same purpose.

Six: Previous discussions above including all contact details will be supplied to Neil Abrahams who will forward the listed to the Chairman and all members.

Seven: Above

Eight: Important that all results be sent to IFAHR website including distances, weights and all details in the results.

The weight for age scale discussion will be placed on the next agenda. All countries are encouraged to mention the term P.A. on their publications, results etc.

Nine:

Other business:

- 1) Germany requests Qatar Cup receive Group status. Answer, after three years the race can be considered a pattern race, for 2009, the third running maybe allocated a 'Listed' status and the fourth year a 'Group' status maybe allocated if the rating level is sufficient. A vote was taken with 100% support for the decision.
- 2) Germany reports that a race in Baden-Baden will not have sufficient prize money this October to maintain its group status as the level is only 15,000 euro, but maybe returned for 2009. Under IFAHR Pattern rules, the race can retain its status for 2008, but if it is unable to maintain its level for two consecutive years then the race will lose its group status. The entire committee unanimously re-confirmed the resolution.
- 3) A working sub-committee was established to review handicapping and weight for age scale. The committee will be Neil Abrahams (UAE), Graham Wallcot (UK) and Harald Siemen (DE) who will work together before the next meeting. Guidelines shall be established with a target for January 2010 for an International classification.
- 4) France applied for Group 2 status for the Prix de L'Elevage as the race has obtained a very high average rating over the past four years. The committee confirmed unanimously the status of Group Two for 2009.
- 5) De Ruitter (NL) reported a Group race has been run in Germany that allowed German horses a weight allowance. The committee has decided that if a race maintains these conditions for two years then the race will lose its group race status. This statement refers to all races pattern races. A vote was taken with 100% support for the decision.
- 6) Should someone wish to improve a rule for the next meeting they are welcome to propose this for the next agenda.

Ten: Next meeting for this Committee will be the day before the next IFAHR AGM in 2009.

Meeting ended at 14:30.

Neil Abrahams (UAE) Secretary