

Minutes

ZANEF open meeting for showjumping

Date: 9 May
Venue: LHPCC
Time: 18:00-20:00
Participants: About 12 in person and 14 online.
ZANEF EXCOM: John Paton President, Zara Nicolle Showjumping Rep, Karen Laurenson Eventing rep
ZANEF Showjumping Technical Committee: Peter Castle (Chairperson); Zara Nicolle, Eva Bursvik, Jo Cocker (online), Jo Gifford (online)

Purpose: - Take stock of where Zambian Showjumping stands and build a common vision
- Present the roles and responsibilities of ZANEF Technical committee for Showjumping: current plans, challenges and opportunities
- Identify and discuss any concerns by members (parents, riders, coaches, organizing committees, officials, volunteers and ZANEF office bearers)

1. **Welcome and purpose of meeting** (John Paton, ZANEF President)

John welcomed the meeting and quoted parts of the ZANEF Constitution, incl purpose of ZANEF, EXCOM and their responsibilities. As an FEI affiliated NF we need to abide by FEI and ZANEF rules. The main message was that we have the same common goal: develop the sport in a professional manner within the framework, rules and regulations of the FEI; welfare of the horse – social license; safety; fun and joy for all: riders, coaches, grooms, organising committees, officials, volunteers, horse owners, spectators and sponsors. We are a small community, we have to care about and respect each other. We all contribute of our free time on a voluntary basis for the love of the horse and the sport.

2. **Presentation of Showjumping Technical Committee** (Peter Castle (chairperson), Zara Nicolle (EXCOM Showjumping rep), Jo Gifford, Jo Cocker, Eva Bursvik, Alessia Comana Spyron)

Introduction of members, roles and responsibilities of the Technical committee and “who does what?”

Roles and responsibilities of the Technical committee

(ZANEF Constitution, Appendix 1 ZANEF Discipline Sub-Committees)

Develop and assist the implementation of a strategic plan for the discipline including but not limited to:

- Assess capacity gaps in Zambia for discipline promotion and assist ZANEF in sourcing funding from FEI and other organisations to develop the relevant sport
- Review and revise the updating of ZANEF discipline Rules and Regulations with the relevant ZANEF Discipline Representative
- Review and Revise Grading rules for the discipline

- Maintain a database of results of graded and non-graded events for prospective national team members (with member of EXCOM maintaining the relevant platform)
- Determine & propose qualifications for local officials and progression
- Organise training of trainers and officials, including FEI funded ESEEs
- Develop a fair and transparent selection process and criteria for Teams and Individuals for International or National Events as required
- Appoint a selection committee when required for international or national events' teams and individuals to represent Zambia
- Actively seek international competition
- Keep abreast of best practice internationally
- Provide recommendations for amendments to the Constitution or ZANEF Rules and Regulation, operating procedures and guidelines when relevant.

List of division of responsibilities (person in bold is lead).

- General communication and responding to matters not included below (**SJ Rep: Zara**)
- Selection for international Events and EOIs (**Jo C**, Peter)
- Rules (**Eva**, Jo C)
- Officials' Education, incl ESEE (**Jo C**, Eva,)
- Development of riders, incl international coaches and FEI solidarity applications (**Zara**, Jo G)
- Approving schedules for shows (**Eva**, Zara)
- Call and chair meetings, last Tuesday of every month (**Peter**, Jo G)
- Calendar (**Jo G**, Zara, Peter,)
- ZANEF jumping and timing equipment. (**Zara** in collaboration with Chris, Benson)
- Inclusivity, incl grooms training. This falls under Welfare of the Horse Sub-Committee: Grooms training (**Zara**, Kumari), Farrier training (**Eva**, Lou, Karen L)

We will be looking to fill two vacant positions on the technical committee - expressions of interest welcome.

3. **Opportunities and Challenges** (Peter Castle)

a. **Opportunities**

- Small, but active group of young riders and horses
The organization of shows is the responsibility of members and clubs. We are small and can only organize so many shows in a year. Some members who have felt they needed more shows have opted to explore opportunities in Zimbabwe and South Africa.
- Support from FEI Solidarity
This is and has been important: coaches, ESEE, farriers' training, grooms' training

- Venues: LGC, LHPCC, Holmestead, Lazy J, Woodlands
- Pony Club
Pony Club played an important part in the past with monthly rallies, camps, mock hunt, annual international show. There is an initiative to get it going. Each branch needs to be led by a coach. Examiner needs to be qualified. Age: tinies – 25. An EOI has been sent out and a Whatsapp group has been set up. Zara outlined the planned set-up. Members, including parents welcome to join in. Contact person: Zara.
- YOG – Talent spotting
Zara is part of ACES Technical committee for Showjumping, leading up to YOG in Dakar, Senegal 2026. Activities and talent spotting is open to all, Zambian citizens and non-citizens alike. The potential participation in YOG is restricted to IOC rules about nationalities, i.e. Zambian citizen.
- Competitions in neighbouring countries
ZANEF receives invitation for shows in the DRC, Mauritius, Zimbabwe, South Africa and other neighbouring countries. Members who have travelled have enjoyed the shows and the hospitality and have made friendships across the region. Members are encouraged to take advantage of these.

b. **Challenges**

- Very few people carrying a heavy load (Technical Committee, Organising Committees and officials)
- Need for more shows?

Determining factors include:

- Club, venue and OC willing to organize a show.
 - Calendar: several disciplines (showjumping, eventing, dressage) seeking to organise clinics, shows over weekends. Clashes are avoided to the extent possible as many riders compete in more than one discipline.
 - Equipment: ZANEF has jumps and timing equipment that can be hired
 - Officials and volunteers: judges, CD, vet, stewards, paddock marshalls.
 - There has been a shortage of officials and the Technical Committee has made efforts to train more judges, relaxed the education ladder during Covid, now removed the need to complete FEI online course for Level 1 which opens the door for 2-3 learner judges to be qualified as National Level 1 Showjumping Judges. We currently have two National Showjumping Judges Level 1, two National Showjumping Judges Level 2, but no FEI Jumping Judge.
 - Six new national stewards were qualified last year
- Need for clinics – members were encouraged to organize clinics with visiting coaches
 - Calendar - as mentioned above, a puzzle as consideration needs to be taken for other disciplines (dressage and eventing) and school holidays. We should have set

dates for premier showjumping events that are held around the same dates year after year.

- Lack of adult riders – role models, active participation in Technical Committee and as Athletes rep at shows etc. Important with input from riders.

4. Discussion (Facilitator Karen Laurenson, ZANEF EXCOM Eventing rep)

- **Members were reminded to base comments on facts and to direct them to the person(s) responsible** if they felt there was a problem. Official protests should be made according to ZANEF Rules.
- **Warm-up arenas need to be safe.** Stewards are not always asked to assist at shows and it was suggested that a one-pager will be drawn up for paddock marshalls. The Showjumping Technical Committee will do so.
- **Members are encouraged to read the ZANEF Showjumping rules**, where they will find the answers to many questions and queries. The rules are more or less identical to the FEI Jumping rules, with some adaptations for Zambia.
- **Useful apps and lists:**
FEI has some useful apps: <https://inside.fei.org/fei/your-role/it-services/mobile-apps>
In particular:
Rule app – all rules for all disciplines, including FEI Jumping World Challenge and FEI Children's Classics
Tack app – new, useful pictures of tack that is allowed and not allowed
FEI Officials List – officials to be used for FEI Jumping World Challenge and FEI Children's Classics must appear on these lists that are updated every 24 hours: <https://inside.fei.org/fei/your-role/officials/fei-officials-lists>
ZANEF National Jumping Officials can be found on ZANEF's website (2023 update is ongoing, will be up soon). As with FEI Officials, national officials need to be available and work at a certain number of shows per year and keep up to date with annual rules amendments in order to remain on the "active" list.
- **Schedules** should be sent to ZANEF for approval: admin@zaneff.org, cc: zaneffshowjumping@gmail.com; eva.bursvik@gmail.com. It is not necessary obtain approval for club shows (held for members only), but ZANEF Showjumping rules still apply and a simple schedule is encouraged. The Technical Committee is working on a template to make it easier to prepare a schedule.
- **The rider is always the person responsible**, "unless compelling circumstances warrant otherwise". For minors (under 18) a representative must be nominated at shows (FEI GR Art 118), but the athlete is still the person responsible.
- **Officials should always speak to a minor in the presence of their parent or appointed representative, unless there is an immediate risk of danger**, such as a dangerous situation or dangerous riding in the warm-up arena, tack that needs to be corrected for safety reasons etc.
- It was highlighted that **course design is of immense importance as a tool to develop horses, riders and their safety**. The education system for course builders needs to be developed.
- The **Technical Committee was requested to provide a list of coaches** who have come to Zambia in the past.

- Please **approach EXCOM or Showjumping Technical Committee with ideas for applications for FEI solidarity funding**. Information on FEI's website: **Deadlines (1 July):** <https://inside.fei.org/fei/solidarity/how-to-apply>
A list of what can be applied for: https://inside.fei.org/system/files/FEI_Solidarity_Programme_Catalogue_Ed_2021_0.pdf
- There was a **call for “new” parents to get involved at shows**. Officials and more experienced parents are more than happy to help answer questions or assist parents who do not have experience. Specific training can also be provided upon request.
- The **ZANEF “how to run a show” document will be updated**.
- The **regulations for the use of ZANEF equipment**, incl costs, transport etc **need to be updated**. The fixed asset register must be kept up to date
- John Paton informed the meeting that **FEI has indicated that ZANEF is run more like a club than a federation of clubs and that we may be forced into such a structure in the future**.
- There was a comment that the **ranking system may seem unfair** to events with few riders per class. The Technical Committee responded that this **should not be the case as it is easier to earn placing points in classes with fewer participants**. The system has been copied from Zimbabwe where it has been tried and tested over a number of years. **ZANEF will be running the system as a pilot this year**. There was another question as to why the FEI platform was not used, but the consensus seemed to be that it is not a user-friendly system and it is labour-intensive. Jo Gifford would look at the pros and cons of both systems together with Jenny Miller.

The meeting was concluded in a positive spirit with thank yous all around. It was agreed to hold similar meetings on a quarterly basis or when needed. Members would also try to get together to watch international shows when streamed on e.g. “Clip-my-horse”.