



Sunday, 5 July 2020

### **Proposed Alternate Constitution Amendment**

This proposal is made and endorsed by the following five (5) Equestrian Australia State Branches: New South Wales (ENSW), Victoria (EVIC), Tasmania (ETAS), South Australia (ES) and Western Australia (EWA).

**Objective 1: Install an interim board for EA for a period of two (2) years.** The role of the interim board includes:

- (i) managing the affairs of the organisation and
- (ii) engaging with a Joint Working Group (JWG) consisting of representatives from state branches and national discipline committees (NDC's), to consult with all members to identify and implement long term, stable, and representative governance for EA.

Reference: See EA Governance Reform Project Paper from Independent Chair Matt Miller, ensuring all interested members would get a voice.

**Objective 2: Amend the EA Constitution to ensure broader stakeholder voting representation beyond state branches to include NDC's and Coaching Committee, as well as State Discipline Committee's (SDC's).**

### **Background**

In order to facilitate a structured, true member engagement and constitution reform program, with time for states, disciplines and individual members to understand the impacts of future decisions we propose the following amendment to allow those that understand how the sport is delivered to have a vote on the reformed organisational model and governance structure.

The model as proposed by the state branches extends equal voting rights (1 vote per stakeholder) to National Discipline Committees (NDC's) and State Discipline Committees (SDC's - where present) as well as National and State Coaching Committees and the Northern Territory.

In contrast the model proposed by KordaMentha, suggests "One member, one vote". This simple majority rules approach allows for as many as 20,000 individual votes and it is a genuine concern of all states that this approach has the potential to dilute meaningful representation for the smaller Australian based disciplines of Vaulting, Carriage Driving and Endurance and the smaller regions, Tasmania, South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

There is a further concern by the state branches that the model proposed by KordaMentha, "One member, one vote", may mean that individual members won't get a voice in developing a new model for the sport, but only a vote to accept or reject a new model.

There is also concern that a rushed installation of a new model could result in unintended consequences such as:

- funding from State Government agencies could be reduced.
- existing state-based business models could be adversely affected having an immediate impact on States and/or a Disciplines ability to deliver the sport to their members.



## Process

The current EA shareholders, the State Branches, as per the EA Constitution call a special general meeting (SGM) to amend the EA constitution, in regards to who can vote on future constitutional changes. The current constitutionally recognised branches are:

- Queensland
- New South Wales
- Victoria
- Tasmania
- South Australia
- Western Australia

Each hold 1 vote or 16.6% share with 5 requiring to approve a change to achieve 75% to pass a resolution

### Proposed interim voting for constitutional reform

- Each Branch, including the Northern Territory (7) and
- Each National Discipline Committee (7) including the EA Coaching Committee (1)
- States Discipline Committees (35)
- State Coaching Committees (6)

All have an equal vote, therefore a total of 56 votes, (1.78% each) so 43 votes are a pass resolution, assuming all those with the right to vote do vote.

	Eventing	Dressage	Jumping	Interschools	Show Horse	Vaulting	Carriage Driving	Endurance
Queensland (3559)								
New South Wales (8402)								
Victoria (4613)								
Tasmania (797)								
South Australia (1339)								
Western Australia (2036)								
Northern Territory (135)								

(number of members for each state as at June 30 2020)

\*\* Detailed information on members as in 1 or more disciplines is not readily available from the nominate membership database



### **Benefits**

It is envisaged that the electoral reform (as above) will allow time for all members who chose to be engaged with a voice in the model development, and for all stakeholders to decide the final model with:

- grass roots in each discipline represented by the state discipline committees
- National issues and high performance represented by the National Discipline Committees, and
- the states/regions reducing their voting whilst continuing to have a voice.

A second SGM would be held within 12-18 months of the first SGM to amend the constitution to deal with:

- Board Appointment Process
- Structure of the sport
- Overlay of business operations for efficiencies
- Model for voting future constitutional reform

**END**