

Franz Schiltz

Why did you decide to stand for election as an FEI Athlete Representative?

Having done a first term of 4 years (which will come to an end this November) during which I was able to gain direct and valuable insight on the sometimes complex and challenging internal FEI mechanisms and having actively participated in the work of the DTC for 4 years, I decided to run for second term. I remain available to continue the constructive discussions with our new Driving director and valuable members of the DTC.

2. What is the most important job of an FEI Athlete Representative?

Defend the interests of the whole driving community in all discussions at DTC and FEI level and contribute towards achieving solutions in the common, global, and best interest of all drivers (from pony single to horse four-in-hand). In doing so, one also needs to face the growing constraints coming from other *non*-discipline specific departments at FEI-level.

3. What would you like to achieve for driving athletes if you are elected?

There are mainly two things : 1. improving judging or, taking it the other way round, eliminate or at least reduce cases of misjudgment; 2. Simplify rules and eliminate unnecessary restrictions and constraints.

4. What are the biggest challenges for driving world at the moment?

Everything relating to Horse welfare will increasingly become one the main challenges also in driving.

5. What would you like to improve in the sport of driving?

Simplification and cost reduction for the drivers, fairness (in judging and overall), attractiveness in general, youth, horse welfare ... Also, it is important for me to continue to work towards a viable solution of the recurrent scoring discussions.

6. How would you make sure athletes from all levels are heard?

In every debate, consider all classes and all levels. Make a maximum of athletes participate, such as with the working groups recently created (dressage test working groups, cones working group, scoring system working group, youth working group).

7. How would you stay in touch with athletes and listen to their ideas and concerns?

Continue to work with and through ICDA and remain available for every driver wishing to express a concern.

8. Why should athletes vote for you?

Being actively involved in international driving for more than three decades, having a professional background as lawyer and being fluent in English (and also in French and German), paired with the (positive and negative) experiences gained as FEI Athlete Representative over the last 4 years, I believe to have a fairly good ability to stand for the interests of the driving community.

9. What is one thing you would like to improve in driving?

See under 3. and 4.

10. What is your message to the athletes who will be voting?

Become more involved when it is about our sport !