
Circular to Members

On the future of our sport

This has been produced by a group of high level competitors, Olympians, trainers, coaches and administrators at State and National levels as well as professionals from law, business and accounting. We assisted the Australian Jumping Committee in putting together the discipline driven model submitted to the Administrators as a potential model for the restructuring of EA.

We believe in a discipline driven, nationally focused model working alongside an independent EA. This would in turn make full use of the current state-based discipline bodies that we all agree are currently the engine room driving our sports forward. The difference would be that these state based bodies would work with the national discipline organisation rather than a state branch.

While we respect to positions of the CEO and Boards of the state branches, we are disappointed at the position that they (VIC, SA, WA, NSW) appear to be taking by not accepting the DOCA passed by a vast majority of their members.

In our view the process initiated by Sport Australia's withdrawal of funding, and subsequent astute management of the situation by the Administrators, has presented the long suffering members of EA a once in a lifetime opportunity to achieve genuine and lasting reform in our sport.

We, the members, have Voted!

We mustn't blow the opportunity **for real reform of EA** and we mustn't let the process get hijacked. The final decision cannot be taken out of the hands of the circa 20,000 members.

It is crucial that we work towards the best outcome for our Australian Equestrian Community - we have one opportunity to make the long-needed changes to our sport. Make sure you are informed and if you have any questions please contact us on Jumping.australia@gmail.com created especially for your input.

The Facts

There is a lot of misinformation being circulated on social media and distributed from various interest groups- including the state branches. We would like to clarify a few of the issues that have been raised, particularly in the Equestrian Victoria email to its members, with the truth of the situation our sport is currently facing.

Fact 1

We are an Australian sport – not an association of State sports.

Fact 2

77% of participating EA members voted for “one member one vote”

Fact 3

A majority of members in five of the six states voted for “one member one vote”

24. Based on State Branches and Northern Territory, Tasmania was the only Branch to vote against the Administrators DOCA proposal. A summary of the voting is set out below.

All members	For		Against	
	State headcount	% of state total	State headcount	% of state total
NSW	639	93%	32	5%
VIC	455	73%	164	26%
TAS	11	5%	213	94%
SA	90	77%	26	22%
WA	93	55%	74	44%
QLD	526	99%	4	1%
NT	22	100%	-	0%
Total	1,836	77%	513	22%
<i>% of total</i>	77%		22%	

25. We seek your constructive comments on the proposed amendments before we move to requestion the necessary Special General Meeting to formally consider a resolution to effect the amendments.

Fact 4

The conclusive defeat of the States position was despite the fact that they, via their databases, were able to contact all members to promote their position – additionally some States proactively sought to block any comment that did not support their case. “One member one vote” had no similar platform for dissemination of its policies.

Fact 5

The States, despite having no mandate from their members to do so, are prepared to legally challenge the reform process, **rather than accept the decisive vote of their members for it to proceed.**

Fact 6

The States advise that they are “keen to see constitutional reform”- yet as the only shareholders of EA **they have had the opportunity to do this for the past 60 years.** Yet, despite a clearly failing system at EA and several warnings from Sport Australia, have done absolutely nothing.

Fact 7

The “facts” recently promoted by the States were facts in existence prior to the recent vote and **were able to be carefully considered by members before they voted.** They are not new and cannot be portrayed as having affected any voting patterns.

Fact 8

Some States are putting out surveys (with associated letters of State position) in an attempt **to subvert the process already undertaken.** The survey has been done - 77% did not agree with the States position.

Fact 9

Tasmania, which is the only state where the majority of its voters did not support the Administrators DOCA, clearly has a right to vote against the resolution to change to one member one vote. However it must be recognized that a state with less than a thousand members could ultimately determine the fate of EA which also represents another 19,000 members.

If all the other states vote at the Special General Meeting to change to the one member one vote in accordance with their members' wishes, then **it would still achieve the 75% required to pass the resolution.**

Fact 10

The harder the States attempt to ignore the mandate given to the “one member one vote” **the less credible they are in relation to being objective** and willing to **accept the members vote** for constitutional reform.

Fact 11

Ignoring the mandate of the vote would mean that the **States would no longer be suitable representatives for their members** (which they say is the very basis of their model). The fact that they are considering committing members' money to a campaign to work against the clear wishes of those very members is reprehensible (acknowledging that Equestrian Queensland is not included in this situation).

Fact 12

The States fear of additional KordaMentha costs is easily resolved by their compliance with the members wishes, **amending the constitution in line with the agreed DOCA.**

Fact 13

“One member one vote” relates only to the single requirement that every member should have a say about which restructure is ultimately adopted. This vote is a once in a lifetime opportunity and **it is appropriate that all EA members have the chance to be involved** in the outcome of the model they choose.

Fact 14

This process could have been avoided if the States had embraced the need for change. As the shareholders of EA they (not the Board) had, complete control to amend the constitution in any way they saw fit, at any time. **Yet they were unable to effect constitutional change.**

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Right now there are 2 issues at hand:

- 1) First and most immediate is the process set up by the KordaMentha DOCA which was approved by more than a 3 to 1 majority of the circa 3,000 EA members who voted who voted on 14th July at the 2nd Meeting of Creditors. This DOCA effectively requires the 6 state branches to relinquish their one state one vote grip on EA and hand that over to the 20,000 EA members to decide the future of their sport. The current evidence seems to be that with the notable exception of Qld who did not join the other states, at least some of the State Branches would prefer to force EA into liquidation rather than give up their gerrymander which has given them control of our sports for the past six decades.
- 2) The ultimately the crucial issue, once the process is established, is to select the best structural and constitutional model to take EA forward. A number of models have been submitted. At this point of time the states, even though they are trying to control the process of selecting a model, have not indicated what their preferred model might look like. Given the extreme lengths they are going to, against the clear wishes of a vast majority of their members expressed in the DOCA vote, it is almost inconceivable that the states (with the clear exception of Qld) would accept a model that diminishes their control of EA. It is also the principal reason why SA withdrew the funding. So we'd be back to square one!

Do you authorize your states to spend your membership funds fighting against your vote?

If not, you need to pressure your states to follow through with the results of the vote at the second meeting of creditors.

For more information, and further explanation of misinformation and clarification about the current situation, please copy and paste the following link into your browser:

https://kordamentha.com/getmedia/877da66d-ed69-4e8d-8a82-30460b0b952c/Administrators-letter-to-Equestrian-Tasmania?fbclid=IwAR0bRgSLwnMDkv-O3yEC2DPcYY8aYDsrEdg7p7GeCa_dCCFYRUi3AAIhREI

Call on the States to do the right thing and vote to give every member a voice!