



# NAMIBIA ENDURANCE RIDE ASSOCIATION

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**"TO FINISH IS TO WIN"**

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Date: 02/12/2019

To: THE PRESIDENT OF FEI

**RE: Namibia Endurance Ride Association (NERA) disaffiliation from FEI in 2020:**

Dear Sir,

Namibian Endurance Ride Association (NERA) Council wants to inform you that:

**Our members voted overwhelmingly on the 2019 AGM held in Windhoek on 30/11/2019 in favour for NERA to dis-affiliate from FEI completely with immediate effect and that NERA will not pay the 2020 FEI registration fee through NAMEF. NERA will also no more host the 2020 Walvisbay ride as an FEI event. NERA will pay the FEI cancelation fee for this ride.**

Please note that:

NERA has a very successful history of more than 20 years as the endurance association in Namibia. Members of NERA took this organization from scratch to an association that hosts level 3 FEI events annually with great success. For all these years FEI recognized NERA. FEI approved all the rides we hosted, officials we used and results created. In 2018 the total situation changed when NERA was approached by NAMEF per your instruction to affiliate under NAMEF and not to work directly with the FEI, as was the procedure for many years.

- a. Nera as association, accepted the proposal to work through NAMEF as National Federation to the FEI, but through time the demands and FEI regulations to be forced upon us, even on club ride level, troubled the working relationship between NAMEF and NERA.
- b. NERA represents not only a few FEI riders. The majority of our members, about 80% are non-FEI riders. Therefore it was NERA's standpoint from the onset of discussions with NAMEF that the new affiliation should also look after the interest of the non-FEI members and should not prohibited or discriminate against the non FEI rider in terms of team selection and ride opportunities even on the highest level.

- c. In 2019, Nera agreed to register their clubs to NAMEF but maintained that we shall stay a functional association who governs and regulate the endurance discipline in Namibia on a daily basis.
- d. 2019 was seen by both parties (NERA and NAMEF) as the “test phase” to try and harmonize the new future working relationship. Unfortunately that did not deliver a positive outcome and therefore the resulting vote on the AGM of 30/11/2019.
- e. After numerous negotiations with our National Federation, NAMEF instructed NERA that they will no longer accept NERA as an association, but only recognized individual member’s registration for 2020 and beyond. It is the view of NERA that there is no way that the endurance sport in Namibia can be governed and organised without the set structure of clubs forming a governing council and a legal entity such as an association. This structure has a proven successful track record from the existence of NERA and will not be changed. NAMEF as the National Federation in Namibia does not have the capacity, experience and available funds to organize the full endurance calendar of club rides and the level 3 international ride such as Walvisbay.

Furthermore:

1. The new 2020 FEI rules and regulations approved in Moscow will make it extremely difficult and financially nearly impossible for an athlete belonging to a small association and federation to qualify a horse to the required FEI three star level.
2. The conversion rate from Swiss Franc to Namibian dollar result in the fact that FEI registration, calendar and participation are becoming extremely expensive. The NERA/ FEI history from 2017-2019 clearly shows that Organizing Committees of FEI rides in Namibia are making financial losses on each FEI ride hosted. Clubs have come to the point that FEI costs threaten their long-term existence. NERA has pleaded now for long officially through Group 9 and also directly visited FEI headquarters in Lausanne about the cost issue, but to no avail.
3. In order for endurance clubs to survive financially only 2 (two) FEI one star events and 1(one) FEI 2 star event were registered for 2020. This will make it nearly impossible to qualify a horse to FEI three star levels within a 4 year period.
4. Without financial assistance directly from FEI the new 2020 rules and regulations makes it nearly impossible for a normal rider to qualify for participating in an international World Cup event. The cost to be paid to hire and to participate on horses in Europe is all calculated in currencies higher than the Namibian dollar. Therefore the ordinary rider in Namibia cannot afford to participate at any World cup event in future. Only a very few privileged individuals, who can financially afford to pay the cost might qualify but they are not necessarily the best riders our country has on offer.

Thus it is with heartache, and a sad day for endurance, that our members of NERA have come to the point of dis-affiliation from FEI. We as NERA tried to negotiate to keep both the FEI option and the non-FEI option open for our riders but NAMEF's inability and refusal to recognize our needs on grassroots level to promote our sport left the members of NERA with no other option.

NERA will seek for new non-FEI competition partners in the world and will forever work to the point that endurance riding should be accessible and affordable and a pleasure for all in Namibia.

NERA will in due course also inform NAMEF, other relevant endurance partners and the Namibian Government stakeholders of this decision.

Thank You

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jan Meeser', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Jan Meeser**  
**PRESIDENT**  
**NERA**



