

2006 FEI WORLD JUMPING CHALLENGE

2006 sees the FEI WORLD Jumping CHALLENGE entering its 27th year of existence, sponsored by SAMSUNG from 1988-1996 and finally from 2001 until 2004 on by PERFORMANCE SALES INTERNATIONAL (P.S.I.).

This Competition was created to provide less experienced jumpers riders with an opportunity to compete on an International level without having to leave their own countries. This Competition also contributed to develop jumping - one of the Olympic and most popular equestrian disciplines world-wide. Many riders who have participated in the FEI World Jumping Challenge successfully competed or still compete at elite level.

The FEI World Jumping Challenge may be organised by any member NF of the FEI. There are two categories A (1.20m) and B (1.05m). For each category, the complete competition consists of 4 rounds over different courses designed by a Course Designer designated by the FEI. This year, Mr Stefan Wirth from Germany used his competences for the creation of the Course plans.

2006 will see a major change in the philosophy of the FEI World Jumping Challenge. Indeed, we felt that it was now the right time to link the Coaching System to this competition and make it more educational.

Therefore, we have re-designed Cat. B taking into consideration the Jumping technique taught in the Level 1 Jumping Module of the Coaching Education System. Trot sections using trot poles have been introduced in order to ask riders to improve Safety and the basic jumping technique that is necessary to progress at higher levels.

In 1979, the first year of the FEI World Jumping Challenge competition, 8 countries were involved. In 1997, year of the decision to lower the level and stay with two categories, a total of 607 competitors took part, most of them (523 riders from 25 Federations) in Cat. A. The 84 remaining riders from five Federations took part in Cat. B.

Last year, 435 riders competed in Cat. A, while 446 in Cat. B. In total, 50 NFs have been involved, including three newcomers in Cat. B (COL, GRE, IND), one in Cat. A (SWZ) and two come-backs from ALG and ARG. This can best express the popularity and success of this extremely successful Jumping development project.