

SA EVENTING Team Qualifier - Group D & E - Mexico October 2011

At the Greenwich 2012 Test Event we heard that at the Pan American Games to be held in Mexico later this year, the 2012 Team Qualifier class would be at 2 star level. Catrin Norinder, FEI Director of Eventing and Olympics has subsequently given us an insight into the thinking behind the decision as follows:

“The Pan American games is an organisation in line with the IOC - which is called PASO (Pan American Sports Organisation). The Pan Am Games include approx 46 sports which are all organised during a 2 week period. This is the biggest media event in South America even bigger than the Olympic.

The Olympic sports represented in the Pan Ams need to all act as qualifiers for the Olympic Games, and all sports need a minimum of 5 nations to compete to be allowed to be included.

The decision to reduce the level of the Eventing to 2 star at the Pan Am was an FEI General Assembly decision to ensure that this discipline was maintained in the Pan Ams, as we had issues of in filling this requirement for the past games.

This was to try and match the development of the sport in South America and the overall incentive has certainly worked. We hope to return to the 3 star level for the 2015 Pan Ams again.

In addition the qualification to participate at the Eventing Pan Ams has been raised over the regular 2 star CH and each horse and rider will obviously need to obtain the minimum eligibility to participate in the Olympics.

We hope this will clarify your issue, and of the fact that there is a global thinking behind the decision – this is not only an Olympic Games issues but actually to strengthen Eventing overall.”