

# FEI NF NEWS

## New Working Group to advance Equestrian Safety Vest Standards

Dear National Federations,

The FEI Executive Board has approved the creation of the Equestrian Safety Vests Working Group, which will be led by Chair of the FEI Medical Committee Dr Mark Hart (USA).

The Working Group aims to enhance athlete safety by evaluating the effectiveness of equestrian safety vests – air vests and body protectors – in reducing serious rider injuries.

It will also identify necessary research to recommend optimal testing standards and future vest designs.

The Working Group will also provide guidance to the FEI Medical Committee to support the development of FEI recommendations and policies on equestrian safety vests.

The Group will be composed of two panels:

1. **Scientific Panel** – A multidisciplinary team of experts in biomechanical engineering, injury computer modelling, medicine, vest manufacturing and international standards. The panel will also include athlete representatives, along with specialists from other International Federations. Additional experts may be recruited as research needs evolve.
2. **National Federation (NF) Advisory Panel** – Panel members, who will be nominated by their respective NFs and approved by the FEI, will be responsible for facilitating communication with stakeholders. They will also coordinate fundraising for research projects through NFs, research foundations, government grants, and private donations, following FEI guidelines on external funding.

Appointments for the Working Group are underway, and further details will be shared with NFs in due course.

In the meantime, questions, feedback, or expressions of interest for the NF Advisory Panel can be directed to [medical@fei.org](mailto:medical@fei.org).