

**24 June 2021**

To: All Virtus Member Organisations

Dear Virtus Members

I am pleased to send a short update on Virtus Equestrian activities so far in 2021. Despite the difficulties we have all experienced, I am really happy to say that the new Equestrian Committee has been working hard and meeting regularly.

The most important milestone of course was the launch of the 2021 Para-Dressage Video Competition. Entries are now open for this, the 5th edition, and we really hope to see many more riders from many more nations enter this year. The competition is open to II1, II2 and II3 competition groups and there are both individual and team competitions on the senior and junior level. Entry details are available from the [Virtus website here](#) and entry remains open until 5th October.

Please do get behind the competition, especially if you have not entered before!

The second update is to tell you that we have recently approached the FEI to seek their formal support for our activities. We hope this might be achieved through an MOU or 'statement of mutual recognition' or similar, but this will give a significant boost to our ambitions to grow equestrian for athletes with an intellectual impairment globally as we would hope to engage more national equestrian federations. I will let you know the outcome of the discussions as soon as they are known.

The third piece of news is that the Equestrian Committee have begun work on a development plan that will guide our work year on year to grow participation and competition. It is our hope that equestrian will one day feature on the medal programme of the Virtus Global Games and perhaps even the Paralympic Games. However, this cannot happen overnight and we need a step-by-step approach to grow the sport - with more athletes, more competition and more recognition. The plan being written aims to help Virtus Member Organisations by providing coaching guides and more... small steps year on year to achieve our long-term goal. As soon as it is ready, the plan will be published on the [equestrian page of the website](#).

Above all we need your help. Without participation we cannot grow - and so I would like to call on members around the world to promote Virtus Equestrian, to support competition and to grow links with your national equestrian federation as well as with your national RDA (Riding for Disabled

Association) or similar association. Together we can achieve our aims and ambitions, and I will continue to send regular updates as they become available.

I send my best wishes to everyone on behalf of the Virtus Equestrian Committee.

Yours sincerely



Uta Rindfleisch  
Chair Virtus Equestrian Committee