

PRESS RELEASE

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Sydney to host sole Australian HSBC FEI World Cup™ Eventing Qualifier in 2009

Sydney has been granted the right to host the sole Australian HSBC FEI World Cup™ Eventing Qualifier as the feature event of The Weekend of Equestrian World Cups to be held 2-3 May this year.

For 2009 the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) determined that there will only be nine qualifiers for the HSBC FEI World Cup™ Eventing to be held around the globe, one per country, culminating in the Final to be held at Strzegom in Poland 21-23 August 2009.

The Australian qualifier will be held at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre, replacing the two events held previously in Melbourne and Warwick. It will include a full program of Eventing and Jumping classes. A qualifying round of the Australian League of the FEI World Cup Jumping will also be held.

Paul Cargill, Chairman of Equestrian NSW, in speaking about the event said “this is a fantastic opportunity to showcase equestrian sports to the people of Sydney, Australia and the world”.

“To be granted this right is true recognition by the international equestrian community that Sydney is a world-class venue and that Australia is home to many of the world’s top riders and horses”.

The event is being run by Sydney International Eventing Inc and Equestrian NSW, in association with Jumping NSW and Equestrian Australia.

“By bringing together two of the three Olympic disciplines, Eventing and Jumping, over one weekend and with over \$60,000 in prize-money on offer, spectators can expect to see the best of Australian and New Zealand riders compete for the right to represent their country at the World Cup Finals”, Mr Cargill added.

In its first year, the event will be held at the world-class facility, the Sydney International Equestrian Centre. The dressage and jumping phases will be held indoors. Plans are underway to create a truly unique cross-country track that brings riders and horses closer to spectators and the core of the centre.

In 2010 it is proposed (subject to funding) to move the event into Sydney Olympic Park, Homebush, so that more people from Sydney and around the world can enjoy this spectacular event.

For further information, please contact:

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