



## **USHJA Children’s Adult Hunter Task Force Meeting Minutes**

June 17, 2019, 4:00 p.m. ET via  
Teleconference

**Task Force Members Present:** Tobey McWilliams (Chair), Otis Brown (Vice Chair), Monica Hunt, Hunter Messineo, Kat Demas Mulkey, Simone Starnes, Sharon Stewart-Wells (7)

**Task Force Members Not Present:** Jamie Gibson (1)

**Others Present:** Jennifer Osterman (USHJA Assistant Managing Director of Sport Programs) (1)

### **I. Roll Call**

Ms. McWilliams called the meeting to order and Ms. Osterman called roll. With 7 members present a quorum was met.

### **II. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 5, 2019**

*Mr. Brown made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 5, 2019; Ms. Hunt seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.*

### **III. Eligibility Waiver for the Child/Adult Championships**

Ms. Osterman explained the request submitted by a member to compete in the USHJA Children’s and Adult Amateur Hunter Championships. The respective Zone Committees had previously discussed and recommended approval to the Child/Adult Task Force.

*Ms. Messineo made a motion to approve the Eligibility Waiver; Ms. Stewart-Wells seconded and the motion was approved.*

### **IV. Discussion of Memos from Zone Committees**

Ms. Osterman explained the first memo from the Zone 8 Committee regarding the Child/Adult Hunter Championships. The Zone 8 Committee requests the Task Force to consider opening the championships for a rider to choose which zone a rider can compete in. Ms. McWilliams mentioned that when the championships had switched from Regional to Zones that the intent was for it to be a Zone-based competition and would not like to move away from that intent. She continues that there could be extenuative circumstances for riders, such as the Eligibility Waiver they just discussed, where they could request a different location. Mr. Brown expressed his agreement that the option to request a waiver is appropriate. The Task Force was all in agreement to respond to the Zone 8 Committee that the option for riders to submit an Eligibility

Waiver to compete outside their home zone will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Ms. McWilliams moved on to the memo from the Zone 3 Committee also regarding the Child/Adult Hunter Championships. The Zone 3 Committee would like to request adding a Children's Pony section to the championships. The Task Force has been in recent discussion of adding the Pony section to the championships for 2021 during their last call. Ms. Osterman explained to the Task Force that since they are aiming for 2021, instead of 2020, then there is more time to work through the proposal in more details. The Task Force will have an additional call to go over areas of improvement to the proposal.

**V. New Business**

Ms. McWilliams mentioned to the Task Force that she received a call from Ms. Deloise Noble-Strong, who was the Zone 3 Chef d'Equipe at the Child/Adult Hunter Championships in June. Ms. Noble-Strong brought up the issue that there were no written rules or specifications on combining the Children's and Adult Amateur teams when there were not enough of each to have separate sections. Ms. McWilliams went through the specifications and did not find any language pertaining to the issue for 2019 or 2020. Ms. Osterman mentioned that it was noted from previous USHJA staff members that in this situation that all riders are put into one pot and teams are drawn at random, regardless of their age section. There cannot be any changes to the published specifications, but the Task Force can come up with language regarding combining teams that can be used as an appendix to the rules. Ms. Mulkey commented that this situation may arise for the Zone 4 championships. Ms. Osterman explained that the USHJA Zone Jumper Team Championships require a minimum of three teams per section. If a section cannot field three teams, then the teams are combined. The Task Force agreed that there should be a minimum of three teams per section in order to have separate sections, and Ms. Osterman agreed to write up language and email to them for review.

Ms. McWilliams also mentioned that Ms. Noble-Strong suggested stronger communications with championship riders and their Chefs d'Equipe. They chefs can obtain rider information from USHJA staff and provide what the role of a chef is, how to jog, what to expect, etc. Ms. Mulkey supported the idea and will provide to the Task Force previous communications as a chef with the Zone 4 riders. The Task Force hopes to continue this idea for all future championships.

**VI. Old Business**

No old business was discussed.

**VII. Adjourn**

*Ms. Starnes made a motion to adjourn; Ms. Mulkey seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:32 pm ET.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Osterman  
USHJA Assistant Managing Director of Sport Programs