Members Participating: Mary Babick, John Bahret, Katie Benson, David Distler, Joe Dotoli, Margie Engle, Dianne Johnson, Britt McCormick, Robin Rost Brown, Cheryl Rubenstein, Charlotte Skinner-Robson

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Kevin Price, Leigh Anne Claywell, Mary Hope Kramer, Marianne Kutner

I. Roll Call
Roll call was conducted and a quorum was met.

II. Adoption of Agenda
A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. The motion was unanimously approved.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes
A motion was made and seconded to put the April 6, 2020 meeting minutes on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved. The Executive Committee then voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

IV. Conflict of Interest
Mary Babick and Mr. Distler identified conflicts of interest with regard to the Ocala January Classic, Ocala January Festival, and Ocala Premiere. Mr. Distler identified additional conflicts of interest with WEC 6-12 and the American Invitational. Charlotte Skinner-Robson identified a conflict with the Paso Park Welcome Classic.

V. Consideration of Mileage Exemption Requests
A motion was made and seconded to place the mileage exemption requests on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ocala January Classic (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Venice Equestrian Tour I and WEF 2 (“Priority Competitions”)
Ocala January Festival (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Venice Equestrian Tour II and WEF 3 (“Priority Competitions”)
Ocala Premiere (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Venice Equestrian Tour III and WEF 4 (“Priority Competitions”)

A motion was made and seconded to consider the three Ocala requests concurrently. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Committee reviewed the three requests concurrently. Ms. Babick and Mr. Distler identified conflicts of interest with respect to these requests and recused themselves prior to discussion and vote.
The USHJA Executive Committee recommended **approval** of the Applicant’s request to conduct its 2021 competitions - Ocala January Classic (January 19-24), Ocala January Festival (January 26-31) and Ocala Premiere (February 2-7), but did not recommend perpetual approval, based upon the following reasons:

- The Committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competitions is 223.29 miles (WEF 2-4) within a mileage boundary of 225 miles and 150.67 (Venice I – III) miles within a mileage boundary of 200 miles.
- The Committee noted that the Applicant competitions were granted mileage exemptions for previous competition years and the Applicant is seeking to obtain the same permissions for the 2021 year.
- The Committee noted from the materials provided that the Priority Competitions have recommended disapproval of the request.
- The Committee noted from analyzing horse numbers that historically, both the Applicant and the Priority Competitions (WEF and Venice Equestrian Tour) appear to have successfully co-existed, likely due to meeting the needs of different sets of constituents and competitors.
- The Committee’s opinion is that there exists a high density of competitors in this geographic area at this time of year, and that granting permission to the Applicant Competitions may alleviate overcrowding of horses and/or competitors and provide alternate competitive opportunities in this area and at this time of year.
- The Committee recognizes WEF’s assertion that there may be substantial effects on the sport from the COVID-19 pandemic, but believes that competitors may choose not to travel as far to show, resulting in the need for more competitive opportunities, not fewer. As HITS has coexisted with WEF for many years, and is not new to the environment, the committee does not believe it represents a greater threat to WEF due to the pandemic.

The committee members present **approved** the mileage exemption requests for Ocala January Classic, Ocala January Festival, and Ocala Premiere to conduct 2021 competitions at the Regular National Hunter and Level 5 Jumper ratings.

Ms. Babick returned to the call.

World Equestrian Center Ocala 6 (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Ocala Winter Classic, Venice Equestrian Tour IV and WEF 5 (“Priority Competitions”)
World Equestrian Center Ocala 7 (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Ocala Winter Festival, Venice Equestrian Tour V and WEF 6 Equestrian Sport Productions LLC (“Priority Competitions”)
World Equestrian Center Ocala 8 (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Ocala Masters, Venice Equestrian Tour VI and WEF 7 (“Priority Competitions”)
World Equestrian Center Ocala 9 (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Ocala Tournament, Venice Equestrian Tour VII and WEF 8 (“Priority Competitions”)
World Equestrian Center Ocala 10 (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Ocala Winter Finals, Venice Equestrian Tour VIII and WEF 9 (“Priority Competitions”)

The Committee decided to review the five requests concurrently. Mr. Distler identified a conflict of...
The USHJA Executive Committee recommended **disapproval** of the Applicant’s request to conduct its 2021 competitions – WEC Ocala 6 (February 9-14), WEC Ocala 7 (February 16-21), WEC Ocala 8 (February 23-28), WEC Ocala 9 (March 2-7), and WEC Ocala 10 (March 9-14) – at the Regular Premier Hunter and Level 5 Jumper ratings, based upon the following reasons:

- The committee noted from the provided materials that the Applicant Competition can hold a Level 2 Jumper competition without conflict.
- The committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competitions is 8.88 miles (HITS) with a boundary of 225 miles, 144.30 miles (VET) with a boundary of 200 miles and 214.47 miles (WEF) with a mileage boundary of 225 miles.
- The committee noted from the provided materials that the Priority Competitions all declined to grant permission.
- The committee’s opinion is that adding another event within the mileage of an existing event at the same or similar ratings almost always reduces the number of competitors attending the Priority Competition(s), thus reducing the number of competitors in specific classes and sections, and diluting the level of competition.
- The committee’s opinion (which is supported by the Federation-provided horse entry number information for all competitions involved in this request) is that there are likely not sufficient competitors in this geographic area at this time of year to adequately support and sustain a new competition entering into the environment at the Applicant’s requested ratings without causing substantial harm to the Priority Competitions.
- The committee further noted that by allowing a mileage exemption to a competition in such close proximity to an existing competition would invalidate the mileage rule entirely.

The committee members present **disapproved** the mileage exemption requests for World Equestrian Center Ocala 6, World Equestrian Center Ocala 7, World Equestrian Center Ocala 8, World Equestrian Center Ocala 9, and World Equestrian Center Ocala 10 to conduct 2021 competitions at the Regular Premier Hunter and Level 5 Jumper ratings, with one vote noted in favor of approval.

**World Equestrian Center Ocala 11 (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Ocala Winter Celebration, Palm Beach Open, and WEF 10 (“Priority Competitions”)**

**World Equestrian Center Ocala 12 (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Ocala Championship and WEF 11 (“Priority Competitions”)**

The Committee decided to review the two requests concurrently. Mr. Distler identified a conflict of interest with respect to these requests and recused himself prior to discussion and vote.

The USHJA Executive Committee recommended **disapproval** of the Applicant’s request to conduct its 2021 competitions – WEC Ocala 11 (March 16-21) and WEC Ocala 12 (March 23-28) – at the Premier Hunter and Level 5 Jumper ratings, based upon the following reasons:

- The committee noted from the provided materials that the Applicant Competition can
hold a Level 2 Jumper competition without conflict.

- The committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competitions is 8.88 miles (HITS), 214.35 miles (Palm Beach) and 214.47 miles (WEF), all with a mileage boundary of 225 miles.
- The committee noted from the provided materials that two of the three Priority Competitions declined to grant permission (HITS and WEF), while Palm Beach recommended approval.
- The committee’s opinion is that adding another event within the mileage of an existing event at the same or similar ratings almost always reduces the number of competitors attending the Priority Competition(s), thus reducing the number of competitors in specific classes and sections, and diluting the level of competition.
- The committee’s opinion (which is supported by the Federation-provided horse entry number information for all competitions involved in this request) is that there are likely not sufficient competitors in this geographic area at this time of year to adequately support and sustain a new competition entering into the environment at the Applicant’s requested ratings without causing substantial harm to the Priority Competitions.
- The committee further noted that by allowing a mileage exemption to a competition in such close proximity to an existing competition would invalidate the mileage rule entirely.

The committee members present **disapproved** the mileage exemption requests for World Equestrian Center Ocala 11 and World Equestrian Center Ocala 12 to conduct 2021 competitions at the Premier Hunter and Level 5 Jumper ratings, with one vote noted in favor of approval.

**American Invitational (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Equestrian Sport Productions LLC Florida State Fall (“Priority Competition”)**

Mr. Distler identified a conflict of interest with respect to this request and recused himself prior to discussion and vote.

The USHJA Executive Committee recommended **approval** of the Applicant’s request to conduct its 2020 competition on alternative dates (September 17-20, 2020) at the Level 6 Jumper rating, based upon the following reasons:

- The committee noted from the provided materials that the Applicant Competition is asking to reschedule their Spring 2020 competition due to its COVID-19 related cancellation.
- The committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competition is 58.92 miles with a mileage boundary of 200 miles.
- The committee noted from the provided materials that the Priority Competition declined to grant permission.
- The committee commented that the competitions support entirely different constituencies, with little to no crossover, therefore, there should be little negative impact on the Priority Competition.
- The committee believes, if possible, the Applicant should be allowed to reschedule and provide an additional opportunity for a CSI5* this year.
The committee members present approved the mileage exemption request for the American Invitational to conduct its 2020 competition at the Regular Jumper Level 6 rating.

Mr. Distler returned to the call.

Paso Park Welcome Classic (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Gold Coast Labor Day and Silicon Valley Equestrian Festival 2 (“Priority Competitions”)

Ms. Skinner-Robson identified a conflict of interest with respect to this request and recused herself prior to discussion and vote.

The USHJA Executive Committee recommended provisional disapproval of the Applicant’s request to conduct its 2020 competition (August 26-30, 2020) at the National Hunter and Level 4 Jumper ratings, based upon the following reasons:

- The committee noted from the provided materials that the Applicant Competition is asking to reschedule their Spring 2020 competition due to its COVID-19 related cancellation.
- The committee noted from the provided materials that the Applicant Competition can hold a Regional I Hunter/Level 3 Jumper competition without conflict.
- The committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competitions is 168.82 miles (Gold Coast) with a boundary of 200 miles, and 150.73 miles (Silicon Valley) with a mileage boundary of 250 miles.
- The committee noted from the provided materials that the Priority Competitions declined to grant permission.
- The committee remarked that the general feeling among competition managers in the Zones is not to allow shows to be rescheduled on top of existing shows.
- The committee felt strongly that there is not sufficient density of competitors in this area at this time of year to support an additional competition.
- Due to the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 and future outbreaks and restrictions, the committee recognizes that circumstances may change relating to the number of people allowed to be at a facility at one time, the ability and willingness of people to travel to events and the potential need to allow more shows in order to accommodate those uncertainties. Therefore, the committee would like the opportunity to revisit this request closer to the date, depending on the evolution of the pandemic response.

The committee members present provisionally disapproved the mileage exemption request for Paso Park Welcome Classic to conduct its 2020 competition at the Regular National Hunter, Level 4 Jumper ratings.

Ms. Skinner-Robson returned to the call.

Traverse City Spring Horse Show (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Waterloo Hunt and Waterloo H&J Classic (“Priority Competitions”)

No conflicts of interest were identified on the part of any committee member present with respect to
this request.

The USHJA Executive Committee recommended provisional disapproval of the Applicant’s request to conduct its 2020 competition (June 24-28, 2020) at the Premier Hunter and Level 4 Jumper ratings, based upon the following reasons:

- The committee noted from the provided materials that the Applicant Competition is asking to reschedule their Spring 2020 competition due to its COVID-19 related cancellation.
- The committee noted from the provided materials that the Applicant Competition can hold a Regional I Hunter/Level 4 Jumper competition without conflict.
- The committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competitions is 181.34 miles with a boundary of 250 miles.
- The committee noted from the provided materials that the Priority Competitions declined to grant permission.
- The committee remarked that the general feeling among competition managers in the Zones is not to allow shows to be rescheduled on top of existing shows.
- The committee felt strongly that the Waterloo shows would be significantly negatively impacted if another large show is introduced into the environment this year.
- Due to the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 and future outbreaks and restrictions, the committee recognizes that circumstances may change relating to the number of people allowed to be at a facility at one time, the ability and willingness of people to travel to events and the potential need to allow more shows in order to accommodate those uncertainties. Therefore, the committee would like the opportunity to revisit this request closer to the date, depending on the evolution of the pandemic response.

A roll call vote was requested, resulting in a 3 to 7 vote in favor of disapproval.

The committee members present provisionally disapproved the mileage exemption request for Traverse City Spring Horse Show to conduct its 2020 competition at the Premier Hunter and Level 4 Jumper ratings.

Saratoga Special I ("Applicant Competition") vs. 5/A Baker Products Charity Horse Show and HITS on the Hudson III ("Priority Competitions")

No conflicts of interest were identified on the part of any committee member present with respect to this request.

The USHJA Executive Committee recommended disapproval of the Applicant’s request to conduct its 2020 competition (June 3-7) at the National Hunter and Level 3 Jumper ratings, based upon the following reasons:

- The committee noted from the provided materials that the Applicant Competition can hold a Regional I Hunter/Level 4 Jumper competition without conflict.
- The committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competitions is 95.06 miles (Baker) and 63.68 miles (HITS) with a boundary of 125 miles.

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The committee’s opinion (which is supported by the Federation-provided horse entry number information for all competitions involved in this request) is that there are likely not sufficient competitors in this geographic area at this time of year to adequately support and sustain a new competition entering into the environment at the Applicant’s requested ratings without causing substantial harm to the Priority Competitions.

The committee noted that the Applicant competition could run as Regional II hunter/Level 2 jumper with no conflicts, and recommends that they take that option.

The committee members present disapproved the mileage exemption request for Saratoga Special I to conduct its 2020 competition at the National Hunter and Level 3 Jumper ratings.

Saratoga Special II (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Manchester Summer Fest (“Priority Competition”)

No conflicts of interest were identified on the part of any committee member present with respect to this request.

The USHJA Executive Committee recommended disapproval of the Applicant’s request to conduct its 2020 competition (July 8-12) at the National Hunter and Level 3 Jumper ratings, based upon the following reasons:

- The committee noted from the provided materials that the Applicant Competition is asking to reschedule their Spring 2020 competition due to its COVID-19 related cancellation.
- The committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competitions is 36.93 miles with a boundary of 125 miles.
- The committee noted that the Applicant competition could run as Level 2 jumper with no conflicts.
- The committee remarked that the general feeling among competition managers in the Zones is not to allow shows to be rescheduled on top of existing shows.
- The committee’s opinion (which is supported by the Federation-provided horse entry number information for all competitions involved in this request) is that there are likely not sufficient competitors in this geographic area at this time of year to adequately support and sustain a new competition entering into the environment at the Applicant’s requested ratings without causing substantial harm to the Priority Competition.

The committee members present disapproved the mileage exemption request for Saratoga Special II to conduct its 2020 competition at the National Hunter and Level 3 Jumper ratings.

VI. Consideration of Limited Entry Request

A motion was made and seconded to place the Limited Entry request on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

- 2020 Capital Challenge Horse Show Green Hunter Sections
It was noted that this Limited Entry class had been approved with HOTY points for many years previously. It was also noted that the committee still needed to review how Limited Entry HOTY points were handled for both Hunters and Jumpers to ensure consistency going forward, and Ms. Babick indicated she would be working with USEF on this matter.

*An motion was made and seconded to approve the Limited Entry with HOTY points request for the 2020 Capital Challenge Horse Show Green Hunter Sections. The Executive Committee members present voted unanimously to approve the Limited Entry with HOTY points request for the 2020 Capital Challenge Horse Show Green Hunter Sections.*

**VII. Consideration of Zone & Sport Program Requests**

*An motion was made and seconded to place the Zone & Sport Program requests on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved.*

- **2021 Green Hunter Incentive Stake Class Specifications**
  The committee reviewed the materials provided within the meeting packet. It was noted that this request was for date changes only.

  *The Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the 2021 Green Hunter Incentive Stake Class Specifications, as presented.*

- **2021 Green Hunter Incentive Regional Championship Specifications**
  The committee reviewed the materials provided within the meeting packet. It was noted that this request was for date changes only.

  *The Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the 2021 Green Hunter Incentive Regional Championship Specifications, as presented.*

- **2021 Green Hunter Challenge Specifications**
  The committee reviewed the materials provided within the meeting packet. It was noted that this request was for date changes only.

  *The Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the 2021 Green Hunter Incentive Challenge Specifications, as presented.*

- **2020 International Hunter Derby Judge Exception and Pony Task Force Recommendations on Judges**
  The committee decided to consider these two similar agenda items concurrently, and reviewed the materials provided within the meeting packet. It was noted that International asked to have two large “R” judges seated separately, with each providing a score. The Pony Task Force also asked for a single panel of two judges to be separated. The committee agreed that paired judging might be a thing of the past in the post-COVID world. It was noted that the “per show management’s discretion” wording should be struck.

  *The Executive Committee approved the 2021 International Hunter Derby Judge Exception and Pony Task Force Recommendations on Judges, as amended to strike the language “per show management’s discretion” in the Pony recommendations.*
• **2020 Zone 6 Zandra Powers Horsemanship Class**
The committee reviewed the materials provided within the meeting packet. It was noted that the Zone 6 Committee wished to cancel the Zandra Powers Horsemanship Class for 2020, bringing it back for 2021.

_The Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the cancellation of the Zandra Powers Horsemanship Class for 2020, bringing it back for 2021._

• **2020 Zone 7 Equitation Championship**
The committee reviewed the materials provided within the meeting packet. It was noted that the Zone 7 Committee wished to change the qualifying to invite the top 25 riders in the Hunter Equitation section to compete in the Championship.

_The Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the change to the Zone 7 Equitation Championship qualifying procedures, inviting the top 25 riders in the Hunter Equitation section to compete in the Championship._

• **National Hunter Derby Task Force Recommendations**
The committee reviewed the materials provided within the meeting packet. It was noted that this request also recommended that the single panel of two judges be separated. The Executive Committee agreed that the recommendation should be amended to strike the language “per show management’s discretion” both here and in the Pony Task Force recommendations presented earlier, to ensure the safety of the judges and proper social distancing.

There was also some discussion about potentially adopting a Hunt and Go format for the NHD class, but ultimately the Committee agreed with the Task Force that this format change should not be implemented.

_A motion was made and seconded to amend the language to strike “per show management’s discretion.” The Executive Committee voted in favor of amending the language to strike “per show management’s discretion” in both the NHD and Pony Task Force recommendations. The Executive Committee members present then unanimously approved the NHD Task Force recommendations, as amended to strike the language “per show management’s discretion.”_

**VIII. Old Business**
None

**IX. New Business**
Ms. Babick informed the committee that USEF had asked for affiliate opinions on several topics related to COVID-19 responses. The committee discussed whether young horse ages should be adjusted for 2021, whether the junior year for riders should be extended, whether horse recording fees should be refunded, whether any portion of membership fees should be refunded, and whether any adjustment should be made to the show year. The consensus was that the committee was in favor of potentially extending a horse’s eligibility for another year, but was not in favor of changes with regard to the other four items.
X. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn, and the 2020 May meeting of the Executive Committee adjourned at 7:21 p.m. EST.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Dianne Johnson, Secretary