

USHJA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

April 29, 2019 – 6:00 p.m. ET via Teleconference

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

Members Absent: John Bahret, David Distler

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

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 approve the minutes from the April 2, 2019 Executive Committee meeting as well as the Executive Committee email vote of April 8, 2019.

It was noted that a correction was needed on the April 2, 2019 minutes regarding the discussion on Heritage status. A possible rule change was discussed and this needed to be noted in the minutes. A motion was made and seconded to table the April 2, 2019 minutes until the language could be updated. The motion to table this item was unanimously approved.

Hearing no discussion on the email vote minutes from April 8, 2019, the members present unanimously approved the email minutes.

IV. Consideration of Mileage Exemption Requests

A motion was made and seconded to place consideration of all three mileage exemption requests on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.

Ocala January Classic (“Applicant Competition”) vs. WEF 2 & Venice Equestrian Tour I (“Priority Competitions”)

Ocala January Festival (“Applicant Competition”) vs. WEF 3 & Venice Equestrian Tour II (“Priority Competitions”)

Ocala Premiere (“Applicant Competition”) vs. WEF 4 & Venice Equestrian Tour III (“Priority Competitions”)

No conflicts of interest on the part of any Executive Committee members in attendance were identified with respect to these requests.

The Applicant's request to conduct its 2020 competitions - Ocala January Classic (January 14-19), Ocala January Festival (January 22-21-26), and Ocala Premiere (January 28-February 2) - at the Hunter National (A) rating and Jumper Level 5 rating was recommended for 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 jumper mileage boundary of 225 miles and 150.67 (Venice I – III) miles respectively within a mileage boundary of 200 miles.
- The Committee noted that the Applicant competitions were granted mileage exemptions for the 2016 – 2019 competition years and the Applicant is seeking to obtain the same permissions for the 2020 year.
- The Committee noted from the materials provided that the Priority Competitions (WEF 2-4) have granted the Applicant permission to run all three of its competitions.
- The Committee noted that the Priority Competitions (Venice Equestrian Tour I-III) provided no response.
- The Committee noted from analyzing horse numbers from 2017-2019 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 and competitive level 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.

At the end of discussion, a motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of all three mileage exemption requests. The members present unanimously approved the Mileage Exemption Requests for the 2020 Ocala January Classic, the 2020 Ocala January Festival, and the 2020 Ocala Premiere.

V. Consideration of Limited Entry Request

A motion was made and seconded to place the 2019 National Horse Show Hunter Classic Limited Entry Request on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.

- **2019 National Horse Show Hunter Classic**

The committee reviewed the materials provided within the meeting packet that outlined the 2019 National Horse Show Hunter Classic's request to limit entries. Ms. Babick stated that this request was approved last year. She also noted that the show was asking for HOTA points and money won to be awarded to entrants that compete at least five times in their section, and that this is a manual process handled by the Federation. It was noted that the Federation could address that aspect if it was an issue for the one class. Ms. Babick pointed out that qualifiers would likely have competed more than five times in order to qualify.

The members present unanimously approved the Limited Entry Request for the 2019 National Horse Show Hunter Classic.

VI. Consideration of Sport Program Requests

A motion was made and seconded to place all Sport Program requests on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

- **2020 HOTY & Stirrup Cup Specifications**

The committee reviewed the materials provided within the meeting packet. The updates in the specifications include:

- Adding Low Junior/Amateur/Amateur Owner Jumper to the Stirrup Cup Championship
- Removing the 1.20 height reference on the Jumper Stirrup Cup Point Chart
- Updating the rule reference to HU149 on the Equitation Stirrup Cup Championship Point Chart
- Amending the list of classes to reflect the heights as Low, Medium, and High for Junior/Amateur/Amateur Owner
- Changing the nomenclature for jumpers to Low, Medium, and High under HOTY Championship Points

A discussion ensued regarding the fact that Zones are not required to run in the same format when they have two separate finals (specifically referencing Zone 7 which has North and South finals). This results in differing point availability under each format (section or classic). It was suggested that a Zone should run both locations in the same format, and perhaps the Zone should mandate that. Britt McCormick and Ms. Babick plan to discuss this further with USHJA staff and the Zone chair.

At the conclusion of discussion, the Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the 2020 HOTY & Stirrup Cup Specifications, as presented.

- **2020 Green Hunter Challenge Specifications**

Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the 2020 Green Hunter Challenge Specifications, as presented.

- **2020 National Hunter Derby Specifications**

Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the 2019 National Hunter Derby Specifications, as presented.

- **2020 USHJA Hunter Sections Specifications**

Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the 2020 USHJA Hunter Sections Specifications, as presented.

VII. Old Business

Ms. Babick announced that the National Championship was approved by the USEF Board. There were several key points to the negotiations with USEF:

- Performance Hunters (both heights) have been withdrawn from the schedule and will be replaced with warm-up classes before the National Hunter Derby
- Junior Hunters will be offered in four sections, with entries set at 15 per section instead of the current limit of 20 per section

- Green Hunter Incentive Stake classes will be offered
- USHJA will pay the show pass fee for non-member affiliate riders (last year the cost was rolled into the affiliate entry fee)
- Affiliate horses will not be required to have a microchip

VIII. New Business

Ms. Babick outlined a recent USEF proposal suggesting a new Flex membership. The Flex membership would be a 30 day membership allowing non-members to enter an unlimited number of shows during that period. After 30 days the individual would have to join as a full member or they would not be able to continue showing. Kevin Price confirmed the Flex membership would only be available once per year.

Ms. Babick noted that horse show secretaries had not been consulted on the impact of this potential change, and that it would also have a major impact on USHJA revenue from show pass sales. The Federation put forward the idea that some individuals might be using the show pass to avoid Safe Sport training. However, Safe Sport training would still not be required for the 30 day Flex membership.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, there was a motion to adjourn, and the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m. EST.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Dianne Johnson, Secretary