

**USHJA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**June 3, 2019 – 6:00 p.m. ET via Teleconference**

Members Participating: Mary Babick, Katie Benson, David Distler, Dianne Johnson, Britt McCormick, Robin Rost Brown, Cheryl Rubenstein, Charlotte Skinner-Robson

Members Absent: John Bahret, Joe Dotoli, Margie Engle

Others Present: Kevin Price, Leigh Anne Claywell, Mary Hope Kramer, Whitney Barnard, 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 revised April 2, 2019 Executive Committee minutes and the April 29, 2019 meeting minutes on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved. Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee unanimously approved both sets of minutes, with one abstention on the April 29 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.*

Ante Up Grand Prix vs. Blenheim Spring Classic IV - #2970 ("Priority Competition")

Charlotte Skinner-Robson identified a conflict of interest with respect to this exemption request, recused herself and left the meeting prior to a vote. Ms. Skinner-Robson did comment on the reasons the USEF Jumper Committee sent the application back to the applicant.

The USHJA Executive Committee recommended **disapproval** of the Applicant's request to conduct its 2020 competition Ante Up Grand Prix, #338790 (April 11-12, 2020) at the Jumper Level 6 ratings, based upon the following reasons:

- The committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competitions is 43.02 miles with a mileage boundary of 250 miles.
- The committee noted that this is a new concept in the jumper discipline that involves gambling and there is a level of discomfort with that idea.

- The committee questions the proposed method of selecting riders for this competition and they do not believe the FEI will approve of it.
- The committee feels approving this type of competition would set a poor precedent for the future of the sport, and question whether it would succeed.

*At the end of discussion, a motion was made and seconded recommend disapproval of the 2020 Ante Up Grand Prix. The Executive Committee unanimously voted to **disapprove** the Mileage Exemption Request for the 2020 Ante Up Grand Prix.*

Ocala Winter Celebration (“Applicant Competition”) vs. WEF 10 (“Priority Competition”)  
Ocala Championship (“Applicant Competition”) vs. WEF 11 (“Priority Competition”)

David Distler identified a conflict of interest with respect to these two exemption requests, recused himself, and left the meeting prior to discussion and vote.

The USHJA Executive Committee recommended **approval** of the Applicant’s request to conduct its 2020 competitions - Ocala Winter Celebration (March 10-15) and Ocala Championship (March 17-22) - at the Hunter Premier (AA) rating and Jumper Level 6 rating based upon the following reasons:

- The Committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competitions (WEF 10 & WEF 11) is 223.29, which is 1.71 miles within a mileage boundary of 225 miles.
- The committee noted that historically, both the Applicant and the Priority Competitions (WEF 10 & WEF 11) have successfully co-existed by meeting the needs of different sets of constituents and competitors, and that situation has not changed.
- The committee noted that there was no response to the request for permission from the Priority Competitions (WEF 10 & WEF 11).
- 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.
- The committee feels that absent receipt of any documented objection to the Applicant’s request, there is no reasonable reason why the Applicant’s request for mileage exemption would not be granted.

*At the end of discussion, a motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of both Ocala mileage exemption requests. The Executive Committee unanimously voted to **approve** the Mileage Exemption Requests for the 2020 Ocala Winter Celebration and the 2020 Ocala Championship.*

V. Review of Trainer Certification Program Applications

*A motion was made and seconded to place all TCP applications on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved.*

Whitney Barnard, Assistant Managing Director of Education Programs, answered questions from the Executive Committee regarding the TCP approval process. A question was raised as to why the Executive Committee was now tasked with TCP application approval process. Ms. Babick explained that the TCP Committee had asked the Board to either make the TCP mandatory or to close the program entirely. The Board decided to disband the TCP Committee and create a steering committee to reimagine the program, having the Executive Committee perform the duties of the TCP Committee in the interim. An additional question was raised about whether the TCP Committee had declined applicants in the past, and Ms. Barnard indicated that they had on a few occasions.

The members began approving applicants individually before indicating they wished to discuss the process further. A question was raised regarding the need for the Executive Committee to individually approve applicants if they had completed all requirements, and several members indicated they thought the process could be self-contained without requiring approvals. Ms. Barnard clarified that the committee approval specifically allows applicants to proceed to the final exam, and is not an approval granting certification. Ms. Babick added that TCP applications required approval in the past, so until a new process is defined this would need to continue. Some concern was expressed about committee members being unfamiliar with applicants, but it was noted that the previous TCP Committee did not personally know applicants, and that this was similar to the Licensed Officials approval process.

Members indicated that the process for this program should change, and Ms. Babick indicated that she and Kevin Price would be in discussion with the steering committee on this topic. It was emphasized that the current slate of applicants deserved review at this time since they had completed the requirements under existing TCP standards.

Another question was raised about the logistics of pausing applications and approvals temporarily until a new process could be defined by the steering committee. Ms. Barnard indicated that applicants have one year from the time of application to complete all requirements, so it would be challenging to find a stopping point. She added that the next application deadline is September 15, and that it might be difficult for the steering committee to have a new process in place before the next group would be eligible for review. Ms. Babick agreed that the logistics of the change would be challenging and they would try to have a new process defined by the next deadline, but this could not be guaranteed. Ms. Babick continued to mention that initial discussions have centered on offering a basic certificate of completion for those taking the course for educational purposes only, and having those seeking full TCP certification fulfill a more rigorous set of requirements (including a demonstration of abilities).

*At the end of discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve all 16 applicants as a block. The Executive Committee unanimously approved the motion, and it was noted that this included an extension request (through September) for one applicant.*

#### VI. Consideration of Awards Committee Request

*A motion was made and seconded to place the Awards Committee request on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved.*

Ms. Rubenstein briefly presented details about the new Kiara Barnett Perpetual Trophy.

*Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee unanimously voted to approve the Awards Committee request for approval of the Kiara Barnett Perpetual Trophy, as presented.*

VII. Old Business  
None

VIII. New Business  
None

IX. Adjournment  
There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn, and the meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m. EST.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:  
Dianne Johnson, Secretary