USHJA Children’s Adult Hunter Task Force Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2019, 3:00 p.m. ET via Teleconference

Task Force Members Present: Tobey McWilliams (Chair), Otis Brown (Vice Chair), Jamie Gibson, Monica Hunt, Hunter Messineo, Kat Demas Mulkey, Sharon Stewart-Wells, Simone Starnes (8)

Task Force Members Not Present: (0)

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 eight (8) members present a quorum was met.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 28, 2019
Ms. Stewart-Wells made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from October 28, 2019; Ms. Hunt seconded and the motion was passed without further discussion.

III. Discussion of the 2020 Championships
Ms. McWilliams provided the Task Force with news from Mr. Kevin Price during a phone call regarding the 2020 competition year. There has been discussion from upper management that the Children’s and Adult Amateur Hunter Championships may not continue in 2020. The final decision will be made by the USHJA Board of Directors. Ms. McWilliams discussed the lack of participation and the cost it takes to put on the championships has resulted in not getting a lot in return. She questioned that the issue of participation might be demographics and brought the idea forward to combine with the Stirrup Cup Championships. This could help demographically based on the fact that Stirrup Cup Championships are zone based, so there would be less travel for participants. It could also cut down on staffing needs. Ms. Osterman clarified the idea so the Task Force could combine the hunter championships with the Stirrup Cup Championships. She also confirmed that there is not a designated Task Force or Committee directly responsible for Stirrup Cup. There was emphasis that both ideas are targeting the same audience. Ms. Starnes spoke up about the success of the current Child/Adult Hunter Championships in Zones 9 and 10, and if it would be possible to continue for the successful locations. Discontinuing in 2020 would cause a loss of momentum in the program. Ms. Osterman explained that holding the event in only two
zones could cause a lot of push back from members based on the experience in 2019 when we did not hold a Zone 8 championship.

Ms. McWilliams emphasized that this newly presented information is not final, and the Task Force has the opportunity to provide a statement to the Board for consideration. Mr. Brown feels that the Task Force would be better off to come back in 2021 with latching onto the other program. He brought forward that the Stirrup Cup may target a different group of trainers and trainers in Regional I and II shows versus the National and Premiere shows the Child/Adult Championship has been targeting. Ms. McWilliams believes that the program could be successful if it was re-branded to target the 2’6” riders who currently do not have championship opportunities.

Ms. Osterman explained that if we do not get approved to hold the 2020 championships, then the Task Force would have more time to come up with something entirely new for 2021. The Board of Directors meeting will be held on November 18 and will provide a final decision. The Task Force decided to perform an email vote on what they would like to do going forward.

IV. 2021 Championship Specifications and Proposal
After brief discussion, the Task Force tabled the vote on the 2021 championship specifications and proposal until there is more information about the 2020 events. The Task Force will perform an email vote to approve of the 2021 specifications and proposal if they are able to continue in 2020.

V. New Business
No new business was discussed.

VI. Old Business
No old business was discussed.

VII. Adjourn
With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:35 pm ET.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Osterman
USHJA Assistant Managing Director of Sport Programs