Committee: USHJA Joint Equitation Task Force

Meeting Date: Monday, October 28th and Tuesday, October 29th 2019

Meeting Time: Monday 12:00-5:00 pm (EST)

Tuesday 8:00 am – 12:00pm (EST)

Location: USHJA Headquarters, Lexington, KY

Meeting Minutes – Monday 10/28/2019

Members Present: Robin Rost-Brown, Chair; Ann Dotoli, Susan Baginski, Missy Clark, Cindy Cruciotti, Andre Dignelli, James Hagman, Karen Healey, Stacia Madden, Elizabeth Pandich, Ken Smith, Caitlin Venezia (12)

Members Not Present: Stacie Ryan (participated via teleconference) (1)

Also Present: Mary Babick, USHJA President, Katie Patrick, USHJA Sport Department Director, Melanie Mader, USHJA Sport Program Coordinator, Kelsey Shanley, USEF National Breeds & Disciplines Program Manager; Terri Dolan, Director USEF National Breeds & Non-FEI Disciplines Sport, Lizzy Chesson, Managing Director, Show Jumping, Erin Keating, Director, Jumping Development Programs, Geoff Teall, for NHS/ASPCA Maclay. (8)

I. Welcome and roll call

Mrs. Brown called the meeting to order. Ms. Mader took roll call. With 12 members present, a quorum was met.

II. Approval of meeting minutes from June 17, 2019

Ms. Baginski made a motion to approve the Minutes from the June 17th call; Ms. Dotoli seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

III. Action on referred rule change proposals (RCPs)

a. Jump Cup RCP

Ms. Mader updated the Task Force Members that the Rule Change Proposal for HU109 was approved by USHJA and will move forward to be discussed and voted upon at Annual Meeting.

IV. 2020/2021 USHJA 3’3” Jumping Seat Medal

a. 2019 Event recaps

Ms. Mader recapped the East & West Coast Jumping Seat Medal Finals. Numbers remained consistent on both coasts in 2019. Both events ran smoothly. She also
related several suggestions that had been brought up during the Finals. These items were discussed by the Task Force and the necessary specification changes put forth.

b. **Updates and clarification to 2021 Finals and class specifications**

Ms. Healey opened a discussion regarding the cross entry restrictions between Talent Search 2* and 3* and JSM Finals. The existing restriction discourages riders from being able to try a TS 2*/3* as their riding advances if working towards the year end goal of JSM Final. The Task Force also discussed the possibility of revisiting the minimum number of points to qualify at some point in the future to raise the level of competition and not allow the Finals to grow beyond the abilities to accommodate the numbers at Host venues.

Changes that were approved to the 2021 Specifications:

- Riders must compete on the same horse in all Phases; no horse substitutions allowed
- JSM Finals: A tie shall be broken by the score from the third phase.
- If a fence is required to be reset, a penalty of 6 second time fault and 4 jumping faults shall be incurred.
- Riders may compete in a Talent Search 2* or 3* up to four times in a competition year before becoming disqualified to participate in the JSM Finals.

V. **USHJA 3’3” Hunter seat Medal Finals**

a. **Updates to specifications**

The Task Force did not wish to make any changes to the specifications at this time.

b. **Review 2020 Finals Hosts**

The Task Force was excited for the inaugural HSM Finals at Blenheim and WEC in 2020.

c. **Discussion 2021 Finals.**

The Task Force discussed selecting a venue for 2021 that could accommodate both HSM and JSM Finals. They will discuss this possibility further after the Host Applications open in spring 2020 for both Programs. Ms. Mader shared that Blenheim had indicated the possibility that HSM Finals could be included at the International Jumping Festival.

VI. **Hunterdon Cup**

a. **Review 2019 competitions**

Ms. Mader related that the Hunterdon Cup ran smoothly on both coasts this year. Entries were up slightly on the East Coast (101) and up significantly on the West Coast (60). Sonoma Horse Park applied for extended dates and Hunterdon Cup will be held on its own day (Fri. July 17, 2020). The Task Force briefly discussed the possibility of Hunterdon having its own day on the East Coast vs. moving the Competition away from Jr. Hunter Finals. The preference was to keep it with Jr. Hunter Finals but possibly approach moving it to Wednesday after the JHF. Ms. Shanley shared that USEF is
looking into similar possibilities as the qualifying criteria for JHF has changed, potentially increasing numbers dramatically.

b. Specifications
The Task Force did not wish to make any changes to the Specifications at this time.

c. 2021 Judges
The Task Force decided to address the 2021 Hunterdon Judge selection after creating a USHJA judge selection criteria and populating the list (see New Business). Efforts will be made to pair senior judges with up and coming judges in an effort to increase the pool of qualified LO’s to judge National Equitation Finals and Championships

VII. (approx. 2:00pm Mon.) USEF Show Jumping Talent Search discussion
a. 2019 Finals recap
Ms. Chesson introduced Ms. Keating as the new contact for USEF Talent Search. She related the 2019 events went well, numbers were slightly down.

b. 2020 Planning
There was discussion that USEF will be reviewing its programs in relation to the overall USEF structure to assess what role each plays and if changes will need to be made. Due to the changing nature of USEF, Talented Search will be reviewed for relevancy and any changes needed. The Task Force shared their feedback regarding challenges encountered at the competitions in 2019 to assist in clarifying the intention of the specifications to LO’s and show management in designing and implementing the class and Finals.

VIII. 2020 USEF Hunter Seat Medal Update & Discussion
a. Specifications
The Task Force shared feedback regarding the 2019 Finals. They wished to put forward a memo to USEF regarding instructions that there be no testing in the second round. They also shared feedback regarding the Pennsylvania National Competition grounds. It was felt the footing and number of horses in the lunging area was unsafe. Ms. Shanley asked the Task Force to draft a memo that she could include in her discussions with show management.

b. Judge selection criteria
Ms. Shanley introduced a new proposal for judge selection criteria for the USEF Hunter Seat Medal Finals. USEF is working to create a judge selection process that is more objective and transparent to obtain experienced and qualified LO’s and develop a larger pool of qualified LO’s. She requested input from the Task Force regarding the qualifying criteria for the Tier 1 and Tier 2 judges. The Task Force put forth a memo with their proposed changes to the qualification criteria. (see memo)

IX. (4:00pm Monday) ASPCA Maclay Update & Discussion
Mr. Teall joined the meeting to discuss the Maclay Regionals & Finals. Ms. Dotoli opened a discussion regarding the decline in qualifying shows in Zones 1 & 2. The Task
Force also expressed the need to have the Regionals be important and special, as many riders are unable to advance to Nationals from a fiscal standpoint, especially those zones in more remote areas. Mr. Teall said he would work with Ms. Campf to research the number of qualifying shows in each zone and the system by which riders are selected to participate to develop opportunities for riders in less populous Zones. Mr. Teall expressed the greatest challenge they faces with Regionals was suitable locations with space & time available. He will investigate options for a Zone 1 & 2 Regional that is conveniently located at a suitable facility.

X. Old business

The Task Force reviewed the list of Hunterdon judges selected for 2020, pairing seasoned Finals judges with judges who may have not judges a National Final.

XI. New business

a. Mrs. Babick led a discussion regarding the addition of Technical delegates to all USHJA Finals. The Equitation Task Force was in support of this idea. Mrs. Babick, with the assistance of Mrs. Skinner-Robson, had drafted a document outlining the roles and responsibilities of a Technical Delegate. This position will be developed further and utilized at the USHJA Equitation Finals in 2020. Additionally, the Task Force added to their USEF memo that they would like to recommend the use of a Technical Delegate at the USEF HSM Finals in 2020.

b. The Task Force further discussed the judge selection criteria and how to utilize it for the selection of USHJA Finals. A list of Tier 1 judges who have judges a National Final was developed, as well a Tier 2 list of judges who have officiated at a Premier show, Regional, or Zone Championship. These objective selection criteria will help to ensure quality capable LO’s, while developing LO’s for the Tier 1 list.

XII. Adjournment

Committee actions resulting in a recommendation for program changes are subject to additional review in accordance with Board of Directors approved policy.
Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Members Present: Robin Rost Brown, Chair; Ann Dotoli, Susan Baginski, James Hagman, Stacia Madden, Elizabeth Pandich, Caitlin Venezia (7)

Members Not Present: Stacie Ryan (excused); Missy Clark, Andre Dignelli, Karen Healey, Ken Smith (4)

Also Present: Mary Babick, President USHJA; Melanie Mader, USHJA Sport Program Coordinator, Katie Patrick, USHJA Sport Director, Geoff Teall, for NHS/Maclay (4)

I. Welcome and roll call

Mrs. Brown called the meeting to order. Ms. Mader took roll. With seven (7) members present a quorum was met.

II. ASPCA Maclay Update & Discussion

Mr. Teall continued his discussion regarding the Maclay Regionals. He shared that as of 9/1/19 riders and trainers must be a member of NHS for their points to count (Maclay, THIS, Hamel). Mr. Teall further discussed possible suitable facilities for a Region 1 & 2 Regionals - Syracuse, Ox Ridge, Centenary, and Mt. Holyoke were suggested. He would also look at the participation numbers in the past few years to determine if a reassessment of the Regions was necessary to create a more level playing field.

III. USHJA Judge Selection Criteria

The Task Force continued the discussion and development of their objective criteria for Finals LO selection. IT provided a list of all LO’s who had officiated at a Premier (AA) competition in the past 3 years; this would be Tier 2 LO’s. From that list and one provided by Mrs. Venezia, Mrs. Babick and Ms. Mader were able to research the LO’s who would qualify as Tier 1 LO’s (have judges a Nat’l Eq Final in the past 5 years). It was noted that the Tier 2 list had many individuals that may not be actively judging in the Equitation division, despite holding an Eq License. Therefore an annual review of the Tier 2 LO’s would be necessary to ensure a list of qualified,
experienced Equitation judges were being utilized. The development of an objective list will benefit not only the USHJA but the USEF and independent Medal programs as well by developing an established selection protocol, creating a large pool of talented LO’s, and establishing a consistent base of LO’s for future competitions.

The Task Force agreed to utilize this criteria to select judges for the 2021 Hunterdon cup. This will be done completed by January 1, 2020 to allow ample time for managers to contact LO’s.

The Task Force also discussed several topics pertaining to the licensing and renewals of LO’s with no action taken.

IV. USHJA Annual Meeting

Mrs. Babick stressed to the Task Force the importance of attending the USHJA Annual Meeting. The membership would really like to hear from them, put a face to a name, and discuss what the Task Forces’ have been working on. This was also an opportunity to have input on the proposed rule changes and listen to member comments. Mrs. Brown supported Mrs. Babick’s request and stated that they Equitation Task Force would prepare a presentation or report for the Membership at Annual Meeting.

V. Rule Change Proposals

a) EQ108.17 Jump Numbering  Mrs. Babick informed the Task Force that if they wanted to revise the RCP on jump numbering (EQ108.17), it had been inadvertently disallowed instead of sent back to the committee for revision.

Ms. Dotoli made a motion to revise the wording that jumps shall be numbered in all Equitation Finals/Championships; Mrs. Venezia seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously

b) EQ106.8.2.b Point Calculations for Division Champion  Mr. Teall had brought the fact that due to the current rule, all Equitation classes would count equally for points. This causes show managers difficulty when a tie occurs.

Ms. Baginski made a motion to change the criteria to state that in a 3 class Equitation Division, the Flat Class would count as ½ points; Mrs. Venezia seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

The Task Force felt this would alleviate the ties in smaller Equitation divisions.

VI. Old business

There was no Old Business to discuss at this time.

VII. New business

Mr. Hagman addressed the Task Force regarding the necessity of judges to make testing instructions at Finals/Championships clear and thorough. As most testing instructions are given verbally while riders are mounted in the ring, they must be specific and clear to help establish a level playing field taking into consideration that some riders may have learning disabilities. Mr. Hagman wanted to initiate a Rule Change for 2021. Other committee members suggested education for LO’s. In interim, Ms. Mader will draft a memo to the LO Education Committee to encourage the inclusion of Testing Instructions at the LO Clinics in 2020.

VIII. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Mrs. Brown adjourned the meeting at 1:09pm.
Committee actions resulting in a recommendation for program changes are subject to additional review in accordance with Board of Directors approved policy.