USHJA Joint Amateurs Task Force Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2020 – 3:00 pm ET via Teleconference

Joint Amateurs Task Force Members Participating: Tracey Weinberg (Chair), Penelope Ayers (Vice Chair), Wendy Chapot Nunn, Courtney Cummings, Adele Einhorn, Martha Hall, Rachel Howell, Susan McKinley, Yvetta Rechler-Newman, (9)

Joint Amateurs Task Force Members Not Present: Karen Freywald, Ariane Stiegler (2)

Also Present: Jennifer Osterman (USHJA Assistant Managing Director of Sport Programs) (1)

I. Welcome and roll call
Ms. Weinberg called the meeting to order and Ms. Osterman performed the roll call; with nine (9) Task Force members present, a quorum was met.

II. Approval of meeting minutes from November 25, 2019
Ms. Ayers made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from November 25, 2019; Ms. Einhorn seconded and the motion was passed without further discussion.

III. Update on RCP for HU162.5 Combining and Dividing Specific Sections
Ms. Osterman explained to the Task Force that the rule change proposal for HU162.5 regarding splitting the Amateur Owner Hunter divisions with a minimum of four entries, as opposed to six. This proposal was approved up through the USHJA Board of Directors; however, the USEF National Hunter Committee voted to disapprove it, but it will still be presented to the USEF Board of Directors during their mid-year meeting. The Junior Hunter Task Force was also included on the RCP update, due to the same request to decrease the minimum number of entries to split a section from six to four. The Junior Hunter Task Force met the previous week to discuss the current status, and they agreed to re-write the intent of the proposal to clarify the importance of the change. The new intent would emphasize the desire for competitors to compete against the same kind, and not to water down the divisions. The proposal with the new intent will be presented to the USEF Board of Directors. Ms. Osterman recommended to reach out to members of the USEF Board and/or the National Hunter Committee to provide feedback that this rule change would benefit the Amateur Owner divisions. She will provide a list of the Board/committee members to the Task Force.

IV. Discussion of New Age Split
The Task Force began the discussion of the official rule change proposal with some confusion regarding submission deadlines. Ms. Osterman explained that deadline to submit any rule changes to USEF for the current rule change process was March 1, so the Task Force has missed the deadline for the start of
2021. Any new proposals would be put forward for the 2022 competition year. Ms. Osterman will seek more information from staff members within the office to clarify the confusion and gain a better understanding of the new deadlines. The Task Force was all in agreement to try and request a late submission.

Ms. Weinberg opened the table to discussion of the proposal they will put forward, pending the late submission. Ms. Ayers offered that we draft the proposal using the current 3’ Adult Amateur age groups of 18-35, 36-49, and 50+, and competitions that cannot fill three sections could use a rolling split so that points will still be allocated toward the correct age group. She mentioned that the rule change would have a greater chance for success using age categories that are already in place. Ms. Howell mentioned that smaller competitions might not be able to fill all sections, so there should be option to combine and hold a younger and older group. She mentioned that competition management would need to plan to order and account for more awards and prize money for the extra sections, which might cause some push back. Another option would be to increase the age limit for the current two splits of the Amateur Owners; such as the younger group to be 45 years old, instead of 35. The Task Force agreed to reach out to competition managers to get their input on changing the age groups of the Amateur Owner divisions. Ms. Ayers and Ms. Weinberg will work towards drafting a letter to managers explaining the need for the change and asking them which option they would prefer.

V. Old business
No old business was discussed.

VI. New business
Ms. Weinberg brought up to the Task Force that there have been issues with GR1306, the definition of an Amateur, regarding being a social media influencer and remaining and Amateur. A USEF staff member sent Ms. Weinberg and Ms. Ayers letters from members who are influencers and believes that there is merit to say they can remain Amateurs. Ms. McKinley brought forward a legislation in Florida that might be passed that allows college athletes to be compensated and/or receive endorsements, which may or may not impact club level athletics. The Task Force agrees to oppose that individuals who are influencers should still be considered amateurs, based on the compensation they receive for promoting a company.

VII. Adjournment
Ms. Hall made a motion to adjourn, and Ms. Howell seconded the motion. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:48pm (EST).

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Osterman
USHJA Assistant Managing Director of Sport Programs