



USHJA HWG Junior Hunter Task Force Meeting Minutes

April 2, 2019 – 2:00 pm EST via Teleconference

Junior Hunter Task Force Members Participating: Christina Schlusemeyer (Chair), Kate Considine (Vice Chair), Virginia Edwards, Annette Longenecker, Donald Stewart, Caitlin Venezia-White, Cynthia Williams (7)

Junior Hunter Task Force Members Not Present: Tonia Cook Looker, Sue Halpern, Mary Babick (Non-voting Advisor) (3)

Also Present: Jennifer Osterman (USHJA Assistant Managing Director of Sport Programs), Julia Hess (USHJA Sport Program Coordinator) (2)

I. Welcome and Roll Call

Ms. Schlusemeyer called the meeting to order and Ms. Hess performed roll; with seven Task Force members present, a quorum was met.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 11, 2018

Ms. Longnecker made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from December 11, 2018; Ms. Edwards seconded and the motion was passed without further discussion.

III. Discussion on Building the 3'3" Junior Section

Ms. Hess opened the discussion about building the 3'3" Junior Hunter section based on the conversations at the USHJA Annual Meeting to increase the awards budget through donor opportunities. Ms. Schlusemeyer opened the floor to the Task Force for ideas, and they generally believe that the 3'3" section has larger numbers than the 3'6". There have been discussions about creating a trophy for the 3'3" Junior Finals, and the Task Force would need to create an idea of what they would like then USEF would create an awards budget. Ms. Hess was in contact with Ms. Kelsey Shanley (USEF National Breeds and Disciplines Program Manager) regarding this topic, and currently there is no budget for 3'3" awards. Ms. Schlusemeyer asked the Task Force for volunteers to get together for a sub-group to come up with award ideas. Ms. Considine volunteered from the West Coast and Ms. Edwards volunteered from the East Coast, the Task Force requested a list of the 3'6" awards and trophies that are currently given out to help the sub-group. The ideas from this subgroup would then be sent to Ms. Shanley for USEF to compose an award budget for the 3'3" Junior Hunter Finals.

IV. Discussion of Educational Opportunities at Junior Hunter Finals

Ms. Schlusemeyer opened the discussion about potential educational opportunities at Junior Hunter Finals. Ms. Hess invited Ms. Danae Fryman (USHJA Sport Program Coordinator) on the call to give the Task Force an overview of the USHJA clinics at USEF Pony Finals with the idea

that Junior Hunter Finals could build off of. Ms. Fryman explained the different types of clinics held and the budget model. Ms. Considine brought up that there is not enough time on the West Coast to host additional events. Ms. Longenecker agreed that there is the same time restraint on the East Coast. Ms. Schlusemeyer suggested that the Junior Hunter Finals will likely need to be expanded to more than two days in the future, which would make additional clinics possible in a couple years. There was a discussion about the space for the clinic in addition to the location that might work against the educational opportunities. It was concluded that 2019 is not possible to happen, but potentially to make a plan for 2020 once the logistics are thought out.

V. New business

Ms. Hess brought forward a memo from the USHJA Joint Amateurs Task Force regarding Junior/Amateur age splits. She gave a brief summary of the memo stating that the Amateur Task Force wishes to raise the age brackets from the Amateur Hunter sections, and brought forward the idea of raising the youngest bracket from 18 to 21 years old. Ms. Schlusemeyer explained to the Junior Task Force that she was on the call during their discussion. She explained their argument that the younger Amateurs (18-21 years old) are often in college and/or have support from their parents to continue actively riding and training, which ultimately results in them winning the older Amateurs. Ms. Longenecker commented that the USEF junior membership would need to change every breed and discipline, and this endeavor would be very difficult or impossible to do. She also mentioned that the older age brackets for the Amateur Hunters are the lowest in numbers of the age splits, so raising the bracket might not be beneficial. The Task Force suggested that the 3'3" and 3'6" Amateur Hunters match the 3' Adult Amateur Hunter splits for three sections at 18-35, 36-49, and 50+ years old. The Amateur Task Force can suggest the option for horse shows to do this three way split, if entries warrant. This would provide flexibility to larger shows to offer more sections, but small shows would still be able to combine to two or even one section. Ms. Edwards raised the idea that raising the junior age from 18 to 21 might help keep younger people to ride and show longer and extending their riding careers. Ms. Longenecker suggested creating a Young Amateur category for those riders at 18-21 years old in which they do not have to own their horse, another member of the Task Force supported this idea. The Junior Task Force's thoughts on this matter will be sent back to the Amateur Task Force.

VI. Old business

No old business was discussed.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 2:57 pm EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Osterman, USHJA Assistant Managing Director of Sport Programs