USHJA Young Jumper Task Force Meeting Minutes

May 28, 2019 – 3:30 pm ET via Teleconference

Committee Members Participating: Jason Mc Ardle (Chair), Kirsten Coe, Joe Fargis, Susan Hutchison, Brooke Kemper, Lisa Lourie, Mandy Porter (7)

Committee Members Not Present: Rachel Bates, Andrew Ramsay, Willie Tynan (3)

Also Present: Jennifer Osterman (USHJA Assistant Managing Director of Sport Programs), DiAnn Langer (USHJA Show Jumping Technical Advisor), Charlotte Skinner-Robson (Non-voting Advisor) (3)

I. Welcome and Roll Call

Mr. Mc Ardle called the meeting to order and Ms. Osterman performed the roll call; with seven (7) members present, a quorum was met.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 26, 2019.

Ms. Hutchison made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 26, 2019; Ms. Porter seconded, the motion was passed unanimously.

III. USHJA Young Jumper Championship Proposal

Mr. Mc Ardle opened the floor to the Task Force to discuss the USHJA Young Jumper Championship document. Ms. Lourie brought forward that section JP116 of the USEF Rulebook states Five Year Olds compete at 325m/m, but the championship document states they compete at 350m/m. Ms. Skinner Robson brought forward that the group had suggested that the championship event be held 350m/m by getting a waiver. If the Task Force would like to consider the Five Year Olds competing at 350m/m at every show, then it would be a potential rule change proposal. Ms. Coe suggested that our championship should be consistent with those of Lanaken, and Ms. Langer confirmed that the Lanaken event is held at 350m/m. Ms. Porter agrees that the championship held later in the year would be adequate to be held slightly faster and be comparable to other world championships. The speed will stay at 350m/m in the championship document, and there will need to be a waiver to allow the USHJA championship to be held at faster speed. There is a chance that the waiver would be denied and the championship will need to be held at 325m/m.
Mr. Mc Ardle ran through the remainder of the class formats, which are comparable to Lanaken’s format. Ms. Langer and Ms. Skinner Robson discussed horses qualifying for the championship through the USHJA Jumper Classic Series. Using the two together will enhance one another. The Jumper Classic Series is based on the National Hunter Derby, which is very easy for competition managers to host. There is no fee to add the Series to a horse show’s prize list, and there is a “per horse” fee that will help the USHJA create revenue and support all other jumper programs. The horse shows that choose to hold the USHJA Jumper Classic Series will automatically become qualifiers for the Young Jumper Championships. Horses will qualify at shows hosting the Jumper Classic Series through that show’s regular young jumper classes. Ms. Lourie questioned the use of these shows with the addition to a per horse fee, and if it would be successful. Ms. Langer emphasized that the creation of these championships is important to support the official United States affiliate for Show Jumping. It was emphasized that there is no additional cost for young jumpers.

Ms. Lourie questioned entry fees and if an owner enrolls different horses and one is unable to compete, could a different horse take that spot. Ms. Langer believes that the spots should be able to be substituted with another qualified horse. Mr. Mc Ardle questioned the staff time it would take to ensure that the horses are qualified. Ms. Osterman confirmed that it would be a similar process to tracking eligibility for the Zone Jumper Teams Championships.

Mr. Mc Ardle started the discussion on where the enrollment fee would go if a horse is sold. Ms. Langer suggests that the enrollment would stay with the original owner, who paid the fee, and would be able to substitute another qualified horse. Ms. Skinner Robson countered that the enrollment should stay with the horse. It would be easier to track the horse. Ms. Lourie discussed the idea of doing an incentive for breeders. The Task Force discussed the payment timelines so that the late enrollment fee increase would occur later in the year. Ms. Osterman spoke to the 45 day deadline for processing results and qualifications is the absolute minimum amount of time possible to ensure all horses are eligible. There was discussion about enrolling horses after the 45 days and have a large fee of $750, similar to the way the hunter programs are offered. This would change the enrollment fees and proposed the following: Early Enrollment from January 1 to June 30 at $150, Middle Enrollment from July 1 up to 45 days prior to the championships at $300, and Late Enrollment 44 days until the start of the championships at $750. Ms. Langer emphasized that the enrollment fee follows the horse and is non-refundable. The Task Force discussed the purpose of requiring a vet certification if a horse is lame and unable to compete, then the owner can enroll a different horse at the Early Enrollment fee of $150 regardless of the time of year. This idea will not be put into effect until later if a situation arises. There was discussion on having a sliding scale for breeders; for example, to have
three horses at full price and additional American bred horses could be at half price. Ms. Lourie offered to work on an American Breeders enrollment incentive process and will send to the Task Force. Ms. Hutchison made a motion to approve of the USHJA Young Jumper Championship document with the discussed enrollment fee date and fee changes; Ms. Porter seconded, and the motion was passed without further discussion.

IV. Old Business
No old business was discussed.

V. New Business
No new business was discussed.

VI. Adjournment
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:02 P.M. Eastern.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Osterman

Assistant Managing Director of Sport Programs