Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2020 – 5:00 p.m. ET via Teleconference

Members Participating: Mary Babick, John Bahret, Katie Benson, David Distler, Joe Dotoli, Margie Engle, Dianne Johnson, Britt McCormick, Robin Rost Brown, Cheryl Rubenstein, Charlotte Skinner-Robson

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Kevin Price, Leigh Anne Claywell, Mary Hope Kramer, Marianne Kutner

I. Roll Call
Roll call was conducted and a quorum was met.

II. Adoption of Agenda
A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. The motion was unanimously approved.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes
A motion was made and seconded to put the March 2, 2020 meeting minutes on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved. The Executive Committee then voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

IV. Conflict of Interest
David Distler identified a conflict of interest with regard to all mileage requests being reviewed. Charlotte Skinner-Robson identified a conflict of interest with regard to the Atlanta Fall Classic II mileage request.

V. Consideration of Mileage Exemption Requests
A motion was made and seconded to place the mileage exemption requests on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

Atlanta Fall Classic II (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Jump for the Children Benefit II and Tryon Fall Festival 2 (“Priority Competitions”)

Mr. Distler and Ms. Skinner-Robson identified conflicts of interest with respect to this request and recused themselves from the meeting.

The USHJA Executive Committee determined that the entire committee had a conflict of interest with respect to this request, since the Atlanta Fall Classic hosts the Zone 4 finals, making the committee unable to render a decision on the issue.
World Equestrian Center Ocala 1 (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Florida Horse Park Winter Classic I and Equestrian Sport Productions Holiday Circuit Finale (“Priority Competitions”)
World Equestrian Center Ocala 2 (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Florida Horse Park Winter Classic II and WEF 1 (“Priority Competitions”)

The Committee agreed to consider these two requests concurrently. Mr. Distler identified a conflict of interest with respect to these requests and recused himself prior to discussion and vote.

The USHJA Executive Committee recommended disapproval of the Applicant’s requests to conduct its 2021 competitions (January 5-10, 2021 and January 12-17, 2021) at the Premier Hunter and Level 5 Jumper ratings, based on the following reasons:

- The committee noted from the provided materials that the Applicant Competition can hold a Level 2 Jumper competition without conflict.
- The committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competitions is 11.96 miles (Florida Horse Park) with a boundary of 200 miles and 214.47 miles (ESP) with a mileage boundary of 225 miles.
- The committee noted from the provided materials that the Priority Competitions all declined to grant permission.
- The committee’s opinion is that adding another event within the mileage of an existing event at the same or similar ratings almost always reduces the number of competitors attending the Priority Competition(s), thus reducing the number of competitors in specific classes and sections, and diluting the level of competition.
- The committee’s opinion (which is supported by the Federation-provided horse entry number information for all competitions involved in this request) is that there are likely not sufficient competitors in this geographic area at this time of year to adequately support and sustain a new competition entering into the environment at the Applicant’s requested ratings without causing substantial harm to the Priority Competitions.
- The committee further noted that by allowing a mileage exemption to a competition in such close proximity to an existing competition would invalidate the mileage rule entirely.

The committee members present unanimously disapproved the mileage exemption requests for World Equestrian Center Ocala 1 and World Equestrian Center Ocala 2 to conduct 2021 competitions at the Premier Hunter and Level 5 Jumper ratings.

World Equestrian Center Ocala 3 (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Ocala January Classic, Venice Equestrian Tour I, and WEF 2 (“Priority Competitions”)

World Equestrian Center Ocala 4 (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Ocala January Festival, Venice Equestrian Tour II, and WEF 3 (“Priority Competitions”)

World Equestrian Center Ocala 5 (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Ocala Premiere, Venice Equestrian Tour III, and WEF 4 (“Priority Competitions”)

The Committee decided to consider these three requests concurrently. Mr. Distler identified a conflict of interest with respect to these requests and recused himself prior to discussion and vote.
The USHJA Executive Committee recommended **disapproval** of the Applicant’s request to conduct its 2021 competitions (January 19-24, 2021; January 26-31, 2021; February 2-7, 2021) at the Premier Hunter and Level 5 Jumper ratings, based on the following reasons:

- The committee noted from the provided materials that the Applicant Competition can hold a Level 2 Jumper competition without conflict.
- The committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competitions is 8.88 miles (Ocala) and 144.30 miles (VET) respectively, with a boundary of 200 miles and 214.47 miles (WEF) with a mileage boundary of 225 miles.
- The committee noted from the provided materials that the Priority Competitions all declined to grant permission.
- The committee’s opinion is that adding another event within the mileage of an existing event at the same or similar ratings almost always reduces the number of competitors attending the Priority Competition(s), thus reducing the number of competitors in specific classes and sections, and diluting the level of competition.
- The committee’s opinion (which is supported by the Federation-provided horse entry number information for all competitions involved in this request) is that there are likely not sufficient competitors in this geographic area at this time of year to adequately support and sustain a new competition entering into the environment at the Applicant’s requested ratings without causing substantial harm to the Priority Competitions.
- The committee further noted that by allowing a mileage exemption to a competition in such close proximity to an existing competition would invalidate the mileage rule entirely.

The committee members present unanimously **disapproved** the mileage exemption requests for World Equestrian Center Ocala 3, World Equestrian Center Ocala 4, and World Equestrian Center Ocala 5 to conduct its 2021 competitions at the Premier Hunter and Level 5 Jumper ratings.

VI. Consideration of Mandatory Fee Collection Request

A motion was made and seconded to place the Mandatory Fee Collection request on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

- **2020 Orange County Horse Show Association**

  The Executive Committee members present voted unanimously to **disapprove** the Mandatory Fee Collection request for 2020 from the Orange County Horse Show Association.

VII. Consideration of HOTY Points for Limited Entries Request

A motion was made and seconded to place the Limited Entry HOTY Points request on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

- **2020 Blowing Rock Challenge of Champions**

  It was noted that this request for HOTY points for a Limited Entry event had been approved in prior years. Discussion centered on the fact that this was a special class limited to champions at that specific show. Therefore, it was not possible to have other horse show management groups offer it, as discussed on other Limited Entry HOTY requests. Some concern was expressed that access to the HOTY points would be too restrictive, since a
competitor had to win to be able to participate, but it was noted that entry to the show was open to all and the case was made that this event was more like a classic. It was pointed out this scenario mirrors the National Horse Show, which also requires a win to participate, and that in order to be consistent HOTY points should also be approved in this instance.

Ms. Babick added that she would confer with USEF’s Kelsey Shanley further regarding the creation of a structure for these Limited Entry HOTY Points requests.

The committee voted to approve the HOTY Points for Limited Entries request for the 2020 Blowing Rock Challenge of Champions, with two votes noted in favor of disapproval.

VIII. Consideration of Zone & Sport Program Requests

A motion was made and seconded to place the Zone & Sport Program requests on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

- **2020 Green Hunter Incentive Championship Specifications (3’/3’3” and 3’6”/3’9”)**
  The committee reviewed the materials provided within the meeting packet. It was noted that this request asked to put the 2021 approved changes into place for the 2020 Championships. Specific changes included stating that judges must not duplicate scores for the championship round, removing the handy hunter, and allowing judges freedom with the numerical scoring system (not limiting to full and half points).

  The Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the 2020 Green Hunter Incentive Championship Specifications (3’/3’3” and 3’6”/3’9”), as presented.

- **2020 International Hunter Derby Championship Specifications**
  The committee reviewed the materials provided within the meeting packet. It was noted that this request asked to put the 2021 approved changes into place for the 2020 Championships. Specific changes included the language about adjusting the order, removing the language about one judging panel being seated on the opposite side of the arena, updating language on tie breaking procedures, adding language to clarify the definition of a Junior Owner for awards, and edits to the course requirements with regard to heights in various rounds.

  The Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the 2020 International Hunter Derby Championship Specifications, as presented.

- **2021 Green Hunter Incentive Regional Championship Specifications**
  The committee reviewed the materials provided within the meeting packet. It was noted that the 2020 specifications were included in the materials, rather than 2021, so it would be necessary to postpone a decision on this item until the correct materials could be presented for review.

  A motion was made and seconded to postpone the 2021 Green Hunter Incentive Regional Championship Specifications. The motion to postpone was unanimously approved.

- **2021 International Hunter Derby Welcome Stake Specifications**
  The committee reviewed the materials provided within the meeting packet. Ms. Babick noted that it would be necessary to postpone a vote on this request since it included
mandatory enrollment fees, and a decision on such fees would be under consideration at the Board’s May meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to **postpone** the 2021 International Hunter Derby Welcome Stake Specifications until the Board issues a decision on the approval of mandatory enrollment fees at the May meeting. The Executive Committee members present voted unanimously to **postpone** the 2021 International Hunter Derby Welcome Stake Specifications until the Board issues a decision on the approval of mandatory enrollment fees at the May meeting.

- **2021 3’3” Hunter Seat Medal Class & Finals Specifications**
  The committee reviewed the materials provided within the meeting packet. It was noted that this particularly related to the judging of round II. It was specifically noted that on the Finals Specifications that no scores would be announced, and both rounds would be considered equally.

  The Executive Committee members present unanimously **approved** the 2021 3’3” Hunter Seat Medal Class & Finals Specifications, as presented.

- **2021 Young Jumper Championship Specifications**
  The committee reviewed the materials provided within the meeting packet. Ms. Babick noted the materials should be amended to change “five, six, seven, and eight year old’s” to read “five, six, seven, and eight year old horses” throughout the document. It was noted that updates included adding the Breeder and Owner Enrollment Incentive, defining the enrollment periods, noting that horses must remain on the show grounds, listing the Zone HOTY bonus points, and noting a water jump was optional.

  The Executive Committee members present unanimously **approved** the 2021 Young Jumper Championship Specifications, as amended to correct the language to read “five, six, seven, and eight year old horses.”

- **2021 ZJTC/PJC Specifications**
  The committee reviewed the materials provided within the meeting packet. A typographical error was noted and amended in the Platinum section III, under tack and equipment, where “tie down” was mentioned in the singular rather than the correct plural of “tie downs.”

  It was explained that the senior judge had been taken out of the horse inspection and jog because they were usually still judging and not available at that time. There was also discussion about the Designated Point Rider (DPR) system for teams with three members, where the DPR is the winner of the first individual qualifying class. It was clarified that the DPR’s score would count as the fourth score for any team of three, allowing them to drop a score, and that this was explained in detail during the rider’s meeting.

  The Executive Committee members present unanimously **approved** the 2021 ZJTC/PJC Specifications, as amended to correct the language in the Platinum Specifications to read “tie downs.”
• **2020 ZJTC/PJC Application Late Fee Waived**
The committee reviewed the materials provided within the meeting packet.

> Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members present unanimously **approved** the waiving of the 2020 ZJTC/PJC application late fee.

• **2021 NAYC Children’s Selection Procedures**
The committee reviewed the materials provided within the meeting packet. It was noted this document defines how the Children’s team standings are formed, specifies the qualifying period, highlights the fact that the FEI age is different from USEF age, and lists how ties will be broken.

> The Executive Committee members present unanimously **approved** the 2021 NAYC Children’s Selection Procedures, as presented.

• **2021 NAYC Juniors Selection Procedures**
The committee reviewed the materials provided within the meeting packet. It was noted this document defines the standings for the Junior team, specifies the qualifying period, and lists how ties will be broken.

> The Executive Committee members present unanimously **approved** the 2021 NAYC Juniors Selection Procedures, as presented.

• **2021 NAYC Young Riders Selection Procedures**
The committee reviewed the materials provided within the meeting packet. It was noted that this document defines the standings for the Young Riders team, specifies the qualifying period, and lists how ties will be broken.

> The Executive Committee members present unanimously **approved** the 2021 NAYC Young Riders Selection Procedures, as presented.

• **2021 Neue Schule/USEF Junior Jumper National Championships (Prix des States) Selection Procedures**
The committee reviewed the materials provided within the meeting packet. It was noted that this document defines the classes to count and the qualifying period.

> The Executive Committee members present unanimously **approved** the 2021 Neue Schule/USEF Junior Jumper National Championships (Prix des States) Selection Procedures.

• **Mule Jumper Rule Change Proposal**
The committee reviewed the materials provided within the meeting packet. The fact that the Jumper Working Group had stated that they were not comfortable working on a rule change proposal to allow mules in show jumping events was reviewed. It was noted that there had been FEI approval for mules to compete in other areas such as dressage and driving, but not in show jumping. The general consensus was that mules would not be as competitive as horses in show jumping events. It was pointed out that there were mule shows and some unrecognized horse shows that would allow mules to jump, but that the wide use of the
USEF rulebook restricted them from having many opportunities. The committee noted that the proponent could certainly continue to work on her rule change proposal if she wished, and that she could try to build consensus with a group of mule supporters. Ms. Babick indicated she would reach out to the proponent to offer the committee’s suggestion.

The Executive Committee members present unanimously disapproved working with the proponent on a Mule Jumper Rule Change Proposal.

X. Discussion of Technical Delegates
A motion was made and seconded to place the Technical Delegates document on the floor for discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Discussion resumed regarding the Technical Delegates document, which had been postponed for further revision during the March Executive Committee meeting. It was noted that the document’s language about USEF rules remained, but changes included striking the language about the USHJA President as well any language requiring the TD to consult with others.

It was pointed out that the document lists 19 possible occasions where a TD would be needed for either equitation or hunter events, noting that the TD role for jumper events was already being covered by Dianne Langer. The cost would amount to $5,700 if Technical Delegates were required for all 19 additional events. There was some discussion about ensuring the TD has decision-making authority, as well as some opinions expressed as to whether the TD or the steward should be interpreting rules. A question was asked as to whether the TD would replace the ground jury, but Ms. Babick clarified that the intent was to keep the ground jury in place for events that already had that structure in place.

The committee members agreed that it would make sense give the document a test run by adding TDs to equitation and continuing to use them at jumper events, while waiting to add TDs to hunters at a later date.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Technical Delegates document as presented, specifying that Technical Delegates would be added to Equitation and would continue to be used in Jumpers, though they would not be added to Hunters at this time. The committee unanimously voted to approve the Technical Delegate document as presented, adding Technical Delegates to Equitation and continuing the use of TDs in Jumpers, but not adding them to Hunters at this time.

XI. Old Business
None

XII. New Business
None

XIII. Adjournment
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m. EST.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Dianne Johnson, Secretary

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