Committee: USHJA Joint Equitation Task Force

Meeting Date: Friday, May 15, 2020

Meeting Time: 3:00 pm (EST)/ 12:00pm (PST)

Call In Number: 800-944-8766 or 888-392-4560

Code: 63350#

Members Present: Robin Rost Brown, chair; Ann Dotoli, Susan Baginski, Missy Clark, James Hagman, Frank Madden, Elizabeth Pandich, Stacie Ryan, Caitlin White, Cynthia Williams (10)

Members Not Present: Karen Healey, Nora Thomas (2)

Also Present: Melanie Mader, USHJA Sport Program Coordinator; Geoff Teall, NHS/Maclay; Oliver Kennedy, THIS/Ariat; David Distler, WIHS; Kelsey Shanley, USEF (5)

Meeting Agenda

I. Welcome and roll call
Mrs. Brown called the meeting to order and welcomed guests and liaisons; Ms. Mader took roll, with 10 members present, a quorum was met.

II. Adoption of Agenda
Ms. Dotoli made a motion to adopt the agenda; Mr. Madden seconded the motion; motion passes unanimously

III. Approval of meeting minutes from May 5, 2020
Ms. Baginski made a motion to approve the Minutes from the May 5th meeting; Mr. Madden seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

IV. Discussion: Manager/USEF Feedback
NHS/Maclay: Mr. Teall updated the task force regarding the qualifying criteria for the NHS programs. Maclay and Hamel will have a 25% reduction in the amount of points needed to qualify. THIS Adult will reduce to ½ the amount of points to qualify. NHS will monitor the reopening of shows from 6/1-7/1 and reevaluate whether additional reduction of points is needed. Calculations are based on an algorithm that accounts for the number of opportunities in a particular state or locality. Additional adjustments include making Regionals optional for any rider who has obtained the
required number of points; once point total has been reached, that rider is automatically qualified for the Finals. Once a rider has reached ½ the number of required points, they are qualified for Regionals. Regional hosts have been given the option to hold Maclay Regionals indoors or outdoors based on the best suitability for safe distancing. The goal for Finals is 175 riders. Should there be additional spaces available, those with the highest points at regionals will be invited to Finals.

THIS/Ariat: Mr. Kennedy indicated that the Ryegate committee voted to use a rider’s 10 best shows to determine qualifying status for Finals. Riders may continue to show to try to increase their average, but only the top 10 will count toward qualifying status. Discussions with the MD local government are positive and Mr. Kennedy sees no complications with holding Capital Challenge Horse Show.

WIHS: Mr. Distler related that WIHS will also utilize a riders top 10 shows to determine qualifying status.

USEF Hunter Seat Medal: Ms. Shanley explained the detailed amendments to the qualifying criteria. They will be taking 10% off all point requirements, and reevaluating biweekly to assess if additional reductions are needed based on number of opportunities.

Junior Hunter Finals/Gladstone East: Ms. Shanley informed the task force that host applications were open to select a new venue for JHF East. The USEF Board will meet on 5/22 to discuss the bids and render a decision. The Task Force expressed their desire to keep Gladstone with Junior Hunter Finals if possible.

USEF Talent Search: Ms. Keating and Ms. Chesson were unable to attend the meeting so a memo from Ms. Keating was read regarding Talent Search. The Talent Search committee is researching the appropriate acceptable number of horses for the East Coast facility. They are also discussing having riders submit a letter of intent to gauge participation interest.

V. Regional Gladstone

Ms. Pandich made a motion to table Regional Gladstone discussion until a decision regarding a new Junior Hunter Final East venue had been made; Mrs. Ryan seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

VI. USEF Equitation Tests: Rule Change, Webinar

The task force discussed the USEF Equitation tests and any clarifications or edits that may be needed. They felt the need for uniformity and clarity across all Equitation Finals. Ms. Mader will draft a Rule Change Proposal from the suggestions presented by the committee members to review on the next call.

Equitation Webinar: The task force briefly discussed the Equitation webinar. Ms. Mader provided some basic guidelines in choosing a topic. Mrs. Brown and Mr. Madden were chosen to host the first webinar.

VII. Old business

The task force discussed protocols for reopening and various methods to collaborate with local/state governments and various agencies.

The Task Force then discussed a change of venue for the 2020 3’3” Hunter Seat Medal Finals East as WEC cancelled its Fall Ohio shows. They reviewed past applications that had been submitted to host the event.
Ms. Pandich made a motion to recommend New England Equitation Championships to host the 3’3” Hunter Seat Medal Finals East; Mrs. Ryan seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously. The committee added that if NEEC was cancelled unexpectedly, their second preference was to host the event in Florida during the winter circuit.

VIII. New business

It was suggested that the Task Force explore offering an Adult Jumping Seat Medal. This idea will be discussed on a future call.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:22pm ET.

Committee actions resulting in a recommendation for program changes are subject to additional review in accordance with Board of Directors approved policy.