

USHJA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

December 3, 2018 – 6:00 p.m. ET via Teleconference

Members Participating: Mary Babick, Shelley Campf, David Distler, Margie Engle, Dianne Johnson, Anne Kursinski, Larry Langer, Britt McCormick, Cheryl Rubenstein, Charlotte Skinner-Robson

Members Absent: John Bahret

Others Present: Kevin Price, Marianne Kutner, Leslie Mangan

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 by those present.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the October 29, 2018 Executive Committee meeting, as presented. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.

IV. Consideration of Mileage Exemption Requests

The Princeton Classic Preview (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Smoke Rise Riding Club July (“Priority Competition”)

No conflicts of interest on the part of any of the Executive Committee members in attendance were identified with respect to this request.

The committee considered the following in its review:

- The committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competition is 42.88 miles with a mileage boundary of 50 miles.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the mileage conflict involves the Hunter rating only; there is no conflict for the requested Jumper Level rating.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Priority Competition did not submit a response of any kind to the Applicant’s request for mileage exemption.
- The committee’s opinion is that the Applicant Competition, if approved, would be providing different class offerings and serving a different constituency of competitors than the Priority Competition.
- Despite the absence of documented objection to the Applicant’s request, the committee’s opinion is that the Applicant Competition, if approved, could have a negative impact on the Priority Competition, especially if the Applicant Competition is planning to offer Outreach classes on the same date that the Priority Competition runs. The committee is therefore in

favor of restricting the Applicant Competition, if approved, from running USHJA Outreach classes on July 19, 2019.

- The committee further recommends that if, for any reason, the Priority Competition does not end up running in 2019, then the Applicant's Outreach class offering restriction would be removed.

*A motion was made and seconded to recommend **approval** of the Applicant's request to conduct its 2019 competition (July 17-21) at the Premier Hunter/Level 5 Jumper rating, **with the stipulation that no USHJA Outreach classes be held on July 19, 2019**. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.*

The Princeton Classic Finale ("Applicant Competition") vs. Sussex County Benefit August & WyndSOR Farm Horse Show ("Priority Competitions")

No conflicts of interest on the part of any of the Executive Committee members in attendance were identified with respect to this request.

The committee considered the following in its review:

- The committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competitions is 49.64 miles with a mileage boundary of 50 miles (Sussex County Benefit) and 60.33 miles with a mileage boundary of 90 miles (WyndSOR Farm).
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the mileage conflict involves the Hunter rating only; there is no conflict for the requested Jumper Level rating.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Priority Competition (Sussex County) denied the Applicant's request. The Priority Competition (WyndSOR Farm) did not submit a timely response, but that response did communicate approval of the Applicant's request.
- The committee's opinion is that the Applicant Competition, if approved, would be providing different class offerings and serving a different constituency of competitors than do the two Priority Competitions.
- The committee's opinion is that the density of exhibitors in this geographic area at this time of year can support an additional competition, especially considering the Applicant Competition is negligibly (less than one mile) within the mileage boundary for the Priority Competition (Sussex County)
- That said, the committee feels that limiting the Applicant's ability to offer USHJA Outreach classes might mitigate any potential impact on the Priority Competitions. Therefore, the committee recommends the Applicant Competition, if approved, be restricted from offering USHJA Outreach classes on the same date the Priority Competitions run.

*A motion was made and seconded to recommend **approval** of the Applicant's request to conduct its 2019 competition (July 30-August 4) at the Premier Hunter/Level 5 Jumper rating, **with the stipulation that no USHJA Outreach classes be held on July 31, 2019**. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.*

Showplace Fall Classic I (“Applicant Competition”) vs. September Country Heir & St. Louis National Charity (“Priority Competitions”)

No conflicts of interest on the part of any of the Executive Committee members in attendance were identified with respect to this request.

The committee considered the following in its review:

- The committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competitions is 246.96 miles (September Country Heir) and 248.43 miles (St. Louis National Charity) with a mileage boundary of 250 miles for both.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that historically, both Priority Competitions have granted permission for the Applicant Competition to run. This year, the Priority Competition (St. Louis National Charity) did grant permission. The second Priority Competition (September Country Heir) did not submit a timely response, however, once received, that response communicated approval of the Applicant’s request.
- The committee’s opinion is that these competitions have successfully co-existed for several years, and absent any documented objection to the Applicant’s request, there seems no reasonable reason why the Applicant’s request for mileage exemption would not be granted.

*A motion was made and seconded to recommend **approval** of the Applicant’s request to conduct its 2019 competition (September 11-15) at the National Hunter and Level 4 Jumper ratings. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.*

The Princeton Summer Classic (“Applicant Competition”) vs. HITS on the Hudson V, Baymar Farms, Inc. & CJL Farm, Inc. (“Priority Competitions”)

Larry Langer identified conflict of interest with respect to this request, recused himself and left the meeting prior to discussion and vote.

The committee considered the following in its review:

- The committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competitions is 121.82 (HITS on the Hudson V) with a mileage boundary of 250 miles, 22.66 miles (Baymar Farms) with a mileage boundary of 50 miles, and 51.81 miles (CJL Farm) with a mileage boundary of 90 miles.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Priority Competition (HITS on the Hudson V) had granted the Applicant permission to run in 2018, but has denied this most recent request for 2019.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the conflict with the Priority Competitions (Baymar Farms and CJL Farm) was created when the Applicant requested to add Sunday, July 28 to its application. CJL Farm granted conditional permission, but Baymar Farms denied the Applicant’s request.
- The committee’s opinion is the Priority Competition (HITS on the Hudson V) is successfully meeting the needs of competitors in this area and at this time of year, and it feels that granting approval for the Applicant to run at the requested Hunter Division and Jumper Level ratings would result in a negative impact on the Priority Competition. This opinion can be supported

by reviewing the decline in the Priority Competition's horse entry numbers from 2017 to 2018.

- Despite the fact that the Priority Competition (CJL Farm) granted the Applicant permission with restrictions, the committee's opinion is that the Applicant Competition, if approved, will have a negative impact on all three Priority Competitions.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Applicant Competition can run at the Jumper Level 3 rating and recommends the Applicant pursue this alternative.

*A motion was made and seconded to recommend **disapproval** of the Applicant's request to conduct its 2019 competition (June 23-28) at the Premier Hunter and Level 5 Jumper ratings. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.*

David Distler and Charlotte Skinner-Robson identified conflicts of interest with respect to the next three requests, recused themselves and left the meeting prior to discussion and vote.

Tryon Summer 2 ("Applicant Competition") vs. Aiken Summer Classic II ("Priority Competition")

The committee considered the following in its review:

- The committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competition is 122.56 miles with a mileage boundary of 250 miles.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Applicant Competition ran without conflict in 2017 and 2018 at the Regional I Hunter and Level 3 Jumper ratings, but is requesting an upgrade to the Premier Hunter and Level 6 Jumper rating for 2019.
- The committee's opinion is the Priority Competition is successfully meeting the needs of the competitors in this area at this time of the year, and that granting the Applicant's request to upgrade to a Premier Hunter/Level 6 Jumper rating would negatively impact the Priority Competition.
- The committee noted that the Applicant can run its 2019 competition, as it has for the past two years, at the Regional I/Jumper Level 3 with no conflict and recommends the Applicant pursue that option.

*A motion was made and seconded to recommend **disapproval** of the Applicant's request to conduct its 2019 competition (June 19-23) at the Premier Hunter and Level 6 Jumper ratings. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.*

Tryon Summer 5 ("Applicant Competition") vs. Charleston Summer Classic I & Old Atlanta Classic I ("Priority Competitions")

The committee considered the following in its review:

- The committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competitions is 214.22 (Charleston Summer I) and 152.95 (Old Atlanta Classic I), with a mileage boundary of 250 miles.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Priority Competition (Charleston Summer Classic) denied the Applicant's request, while the Priority Competition (Old Atlanta Classic) did not submit a response.

- The committee noted that Applicant Competition has run at the Jumper Level 6 for the past three years with no apparent negative impact on any of the Priority Competitions, and the committee would be in favor of granting approval to the Jumper Level 6 rating again in 2019.
- The committee noted that the Applicant competitions applied for a Hunter Division upgrade in rating from Regional I to Premier in both 2016, 2017, and 2018 (which were all denied), and is now applying for that same upgrade in 2019.
- The committee's opinion is that no compelling evidence is presented that warrants granting the Hunter Division upgrade and further, the committee feels that doing so would negatively impact the Priority Competitions which the committee feels are successfully meeting the needs of competitors in this area during this time of year.
- The committee notes that the Applicant Competition can run again in 2019 (as it has in 2016, 2017 and 2018) with a Regional I Hunter Division rating with no mileage conflicts, and it recommends the Applicant pursue that option.

*A motion was made and seconded to recommend **disapproval** of the Applicant's request to conduct its 2019 competition (July 9-14) at the Premier Hunter rating, but will recommend **approval** for the Jumper Level 6 rating. The motion was unanimously approved by those present*

Tryon Summer 6 ("Applicant Competition") vs. Charleston Summer Classic II & Old Atlanta Classic II ("Priority Competitions")

The committee considered the following in its review:

- The committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competitions is 214.22 (Charleston Summer II) and 152.95 (Old Atlanta Classic II), with a mileage boundary of 250 miles.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Priority Competition (Charleston Summer Classic) denied the Applicant's request, while the Priority Competition (Old Atlanta Classic) did not submit a response.
- The committee noted that Applicant Competition has run at the Jumper Level 6 for the past three years with no apparent negative impact on any of the Priority Competitions, and the committee would be in favor of granting approval to the Jumper Level 6 rating again in 2019.
- The committee noted that the Applicant competitions applied for a Hunter Division upgrade in rating from Regional I to Premier in both 2016, 2017, and 2018 (which were all denied), and is now applying for that same upgrade in 2019.
- The committee's opinion is that no compelling evidence is presented that warrants granting the Hunter Division upgrade and further, the committee feels that doing so would negatively impact the Priority Competitions which the committee feels are successfully meeting the needs of competitors in this area during this time of year.
- The committee notes that the Applicant Competition can run again in 2019 (as it has in 2016, 2017 and 2018) with a Regional I Hunter Division rating with no mileage conflicts, and it recommends the Applicant pursue this option again.

*A motion was made and seconded to recommend **disapproval** of the Applicant's request to conduct its 2019 competition (July 16-21) at the Premier Hunter rating, but will recommend **approval** for the Jumper Level 6 rating. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.*

V. Consideration of Special Competition & Heritage Competition Requests

A motion was made and seconded to place all the Special Competition and Heritage Competition results on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.

Mr. Langer and Ms. Robson had previously communicated a conflict of interest with this agenda item, and therefore remained away from the meeting. David Distler rejoined the meeting.

- **Special Competition: 2019 Franktown Meadows International Hunter Derby**
Larry Langer and Charlotte Skinner-Robson identified a conflict of interest with this request, recused themselves and left the meeting prior to discussion and vote.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of the Special Competition request for the 2019 Franktown Meadows International Hunter Derby with the stipulation that no unrated classes be held in conjunction with the standalone International Hunter Derby. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.

Larry Langer and Charlotte Skinner-Robson rejoined the meeting.

David Distler identified a conflict of interest with the next two agenda items, recused himself, and left the call.

- **Special Competition: Amended 2019 Deeridge Derby Request**
The committee reviewed an amended Special Competition request that called for holding Green Hunter Incentive Stakes (3'0"/3'3" combined and 3'6" and 3'9" separately) in lieu of a Pony Hunter Derby.
A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of the amended Special Competition request for the 2019 Deeridge Derby with the clarification that only Green Hunter Incentive Stakes can be offered and held; not entire Green sections. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.
- **Special Competition: 2019 Rolex Central Park Horse Show**
A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of the Special Competition request for the 2019 Rolex Central Park Horse Show. The motion was unanimously approved by those present

David Distler rejoined the meeting.

- **Heritage Designation – Annual Flintridge Horse Show**
The committee reviewed the application and request contained within the meeting packet. Discussion ensued and while the committee felt the competition adequately met the requisite criteria, they felt that the entire Heritage Designation recognition model is flawed and should be reevaluated. The committee feels USEF Heritage Designation should represent a significant honor bestowed by the Federation, and one that is reserved for those select few, uniquely exceptional competitions that stand out over time and that meet or exceed a very rigorous set of criteria. The process should not allow long-running competitions that meet the minimum criteria the ability to simply submit an application, pay a fee, and essentially “purchase” the designation.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval for the Annual Flintridge Horse Show's application for USEF Heritage Designation and also recommend to the Federation that the entire Heritage Designation process be reevaluated. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.

- VI. Bylaw Exception – Affiliate Organization Officers Serving on Board and/or as Zone Officers
A motion was made and seconded to place the memo regarding a bylaw exception on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.

Ms. Babick referenced the memo from Marianne Kutner that was included within the meeting materials addressing USHJA Bylaw Article 1309, Section 3 which states that an officer of a horse show association (as defined within the bylaws) cannot serve simultaneously as a USHJA Officer, USHJA Director or as a Zone Committee Officer (Chair, Vice Chair or Treasurer) unless “express permission is received in writing from the USHJA Executive Committee.” The memo disclosed that three currently seated volunteers (one USHJA Director and two Zone Officers) are technically in violation of this bylaw provision. The committee reviewed the bylaw article and discussed that the language was drafted when the organization was in its infancy and was designed to provide protection to the integrity of the association within the climate of the time. The committee feels that within the current environment, the bylaw article is now somewhat outdated. The committee reviewed the three individuals impacted and agreed to provide an exception to the bylaws in this instance that will allow them to continue to simultaneously serve both the USHJA and the other organizations in their current capacities.

There being no further discussion, the Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the requested exception to USHJA Bylaw Article 1309, Section 3 on behalf of the three individuals currently serving simultaneously as an officer of an Affiliate Organization and as either a USHJA Director or Zone Officer.

- VII. Approval of Hunter Working Group Athlete Appointment to Nominating Committee
A motion was made and seconded to place the Hunter Working Group's Athlete Appointment to the Nominating Committee on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.

The committee reviewed a memo from the Hunter Working Group requesting Mike Rosser be appointed to the Nominating Committee to fill the athlete vacancy created by the resignation of Tom Brennan.

Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members present voted unanimously to approve Mike Rosser as the Hunter Working Group's athlete appointment to the Nominating Committee for the remainder of the vacated term.

- VIII. Consideration of Sport Program Requests
A motion was made and seconded to place all the Sport Program requests on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.

- **2019 Green Hunter Incentive 3’0”/3’3” Championship Specifications**
Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the 2019 Green Hunter Incentive 3’0”/3’3” Championship Specifications, as presented.
- **2019 Green Hunter Incentive 3’6”/3’9” Championship Specifications**
Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the 2019 Green Hunter Incentive 3’6”/3’9” Championship Specifications, as presented.
- **2020 Green Hunter Incentive 3’0”/3’3” Championship Specifications**
Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the 2019 Green Hunter Incentive 3’0”/3’3” Championship Specifications, as presented.
- **2020 Green Hunter Incentive 3’6”/3’9” Championship Specifications**
Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the 2019 Green Hunter Incentive 3’6”/3’9” Championship Specifications, as presented.
- **2019 & 2020 International Hunter Derby Championship Specifications**
The committee reviewed a requested amendment to the specifications as presented that clarifies how prize money is to be split in the event of a tie:
Section IX. Tie Breaking Procedures
C. All ties for Overall Section A and Section B IHD Championship Champion (first place) will compete in a Jump-off Round. If a tie occurs after the Jump-off Round, the exhibitors will be named co-winners. **Prize money will be divided equally among the tied competitors,** ~~will evenly split the prize money,~~ but tied entrants must determine the distribution of awards amongst themselves.

Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the 2019 and 2020 International Hunter Derby Championship Specifications, as amended on the floor.
- **2019 Young Hunter Pony Championship Specifications**
Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the 2019 Young Hunter Pony Championship Specifications, as presented.

IX. Old Business

None

X. New Business

Ms. Babick thanked Shelley Campf and Larry Langer for their long-standing service on the Executive Committee.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn, and the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. EDT.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Larry Langer, Secretary