Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – January 6, 2020

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

Members Absent: Charlotte Skinner-Robson

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 December 2, 2019 and December 9, 2019 meeting minutes on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved. The Executive Committee voted unanimously to approve both sets of minutes, with one abstention noted for each.

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

The order was adjusted to review the Rolex Central Park request first to accommodate a conflict of interest.

Rolex Central Park Horse Show (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Princeton Show Jumping Classic (“Priority Competition”)

David Distler identified a conflict of interest with respect to these requests and recused himself from the meeting prior to deliberation and vote.

The USHJA Executive Committee recommended **disapproval** of the Applicant’s request to conduct its 2020 competition (September 29 – October 3, 2020) at the Level 6 Jumper rating based upon the following reasons:

- The committee noted that the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competition is 44.34 miles, with a mileage boundary of 125 miles.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Priority Competition recommended denial of this request.
- The committee acknowledged the immense promotional benefits this type of
competition may offer the sport, but also commented on the substantial complaints
the competition received in the past regarding ring size, stabling, warm-up areas
and horse paths, among others.
• The committee felt strongly that the potential problems currently outweigh the
potential promotional benefits.
• The committee stated they would reconsider their vote if presented with a list of
improvements show management intends to make in order to meet or exceed the
standards for a Level 6 Jumper Competition.

The committee members present unanimously disapproved the mileage exemption request for Rolex
Central Park Horse Show.

Mr. Distler rejoined the call.

World Equestrian Center Fall Classic I (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Columbus International I and
Chagrin Valley Farms (“Priority Competitions”)

World Equestrian Center Fall Classic 2 (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Split Rock Jumping Tour:
Columbus International (“Priority Competition”)

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

The USHJA Executive Committee recommended disapproval of the Applicant’s request to conduct
its 2020 competitions (September 23-27 and September 30-October 4, 2020) at the Premier
Hunter/Level 4 Jumper and Premier Hunter/Level 3 Jumper ratings respectively, based upon the
following reasons:

• The committee noted that the radial mileage between the Applicant Competitions
and the Priority Competitions is 76.14 miles with mileage boundaries of 250 miles
(Columbus International I) and 100 miles (SRJT: Columbus International); and the
radial mileage is 189.3 miles between the Applicant Competition (Columbus
International I) and the Priority Competition (Chagrin Valley) with a mileage
boundary of 250 miles.
• The committee noted from the materials provided that the Priority Competitions
Columbus International I and SRJT: Columbus International recommended denial
of the request, but Chagrin Valley recommended approval.
• 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 the Applicant Competition without substantially
harming the Priority competitions, despite the recommendation of Chagrin Valley.
• The committee expressed concerns for the number of competitions currently
held by the Applicant Competition licensee and the potential for creating a
monopolistic situation.
Tryon Fall 3 (“Applicant Competition”) vs. North Carolina State Fair Hunter Jumper Show and Horse Show in the Park (“Priority Competitions”)

Mr. Distler identified a conflict of interest with respect to this request and recused himself from the meeting prior to deliberation and vote.

The USHJA Executive Committee recommended disapproval of the Applicant’s request to conduct its 2020 competition (September 30 – October 4, 2020) at the Premier Hunter/Level 6 Jumper ratings based upon the following reasons:

- The committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competitions is 191.90 miles (NC State Fair) and 152.95 miles (Horse Show in the Park) with a mileage boundary of 250 miles.
- The committee noted from the provided materials that the NC State Fair recommended approval of the request, but that Horse Show in the Park recommended denial.
- The committee commented that Horse Show in the Park's concern for the effect the Applicant Competition has on their new competition bears significant merit.
- The committee’s opinion is that adding another event within the mileage of existing events 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.
- The committee noted from the provided materials that the Applicant Competition can run without conflict at a Regional I Hunter and Jumper Level 3 rating and feels this Hunter and Jumper rating and recommends the Applicant pursue that option.

The committee members present unanimously disapproved the mileage exemption request for Tryon Fall 3.

Mr. Distler returned to the call.

Aiken International (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Atlanta Fall Classic I and Jump for the Children Benefit I (“Priority Competitions”)

No conflicts of interest were identified on the part of any Executive Committee members in attendance with respect to this request.
The USHJA Executive Committee recommended **disapproval** of the Applicant’s request to conduct its 2020 competition (November 4-8, 2020) at the Level 6 Jumper rating based upon the following reasons:

- The committee observed the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competitions is 128.87 miles (Atlanta) and 231 miles (Jump for the Children), with mileage boundaries of 200 miles and 250 miles respectively.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Priority Competition (Atlanta) did not submit a response.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Priority Competition (Jump for the Children) recommended denial of the request.
- The committee’s opinion 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 rating.
- The committee also believes the concerns of the Priority Competition (Jump for the Children) on the significant negative impact the Applicant Competition would have on their show is valid and therefore recommends that the Applicant offer their competition at the Level 3 Jumper rating.

*The committee members present unanimously **disapproved** the mileage exemption request for Aiken International.*

**V. Consideration of Special Competition Requests**

A motion was made and seconded to place the Special Competition Request on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

- **West Coast Amateur Owner Hunter Championships**

  The committee reviewed the materials provided within the meeting packet. It was noted that discussions between Mary Babick and USEF had been ongoing with regard to this item. Ms. Babick noted that the request claimed there were no rules to consider, but that in fact there was a relevant rule, HU166, which states that “the USHJA, at its discretion, may choose to hold a National or East and West Championship for Amateur Owner Hunters.” Holding a West Coast event without the corresponding East Coast event would not be permitted under this rule as written, since it specifies the Championships run either as National or East and West Championship for Amateur Owner Hunters. Holding a West Coast event would violate this rule. It was noted that specifications had not yet been written for these Championships, and that this was an item in need of attention.

  Ms. Babick explained that elsewhere in the rules it was also noted that Zones could group together to hold the Championships as a regional event. Ms. Babick noted that she had offered the regional event option to the group making the request, if they would be willing to work in tandem with neighboring Zones.

  Ms. Babick pointed out that it might be possible to quickly search for an East Coast venue to host a matching event to be in compliance with HU166, but that there were also several programs already waiting in the queue ahead of these Championships. She also mentioned that she had suggested writing specifications and allowing this to run without HOTY points.
giving USHJA another year to budget and plan, but instead this special competition request was received. A suggestion was made that this request should be reviewed and voted on by the full Board of Directors.

A motion was made and seconded to table the special competition request for the West Coast Amateur Owner Hunter Championships for review by the full Board of Directors. The Executive Committee members unanimously moved to table the special competition request for the West Coast Amateur Owner Hunter Championships for review by the full Board of Directors at their January meeting.

VI. Consideration of Zone & Sport Program Requests
A motion was made and seconded to place the Zone & Sport Program request on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

- **2020 WCHR West Coast Spectacular Specifications**
  The committee reviewed the materials provided within the meeting packet. It was noted that the dates had been updated, and there was an edit to note that “an official’s meeting will be held” rather than “should.”

  The Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the 2020 WCHR West Coast Spectacular Specifications, as presented.

VII. 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 Pacific Coast Horse Shows Association**
  The committee reviewed the materials provided within the meeting packet.

  The Executive Committee members present unanimously disapproved the Mandatory Fee Collection Request from the Pacific Coast Horse Shows Association for 2020.

VIII. Old Business
None

IX. New Business
A question was raised about WEF charging a $75 per week fee for horse and rider insurance coverage. Ms. Babick indicated she would follow up with Lisa Owens at USEF.

X. Adjournment
There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn, and the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m. EST.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Dianne Johnson, Secretary

USHJA Executive Committee Meeting – January 6, 2020