Committee: USHJA Joint Equitation Task Force

Meeting Date: Monday, April 20, 2020

Meeting Time: 2:00 pm (EST)/ 11:00pm (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, Jim Hagman, Karen Healey, Frank Madden, Elizabeth Pandich, Stacie Ryan, Nora Thomas, Caitlin White, Cynthia Williams (12)

Members Not Present: (0)

Also Present: Melanie Mader, USHJA Sport Program Coordinator; Lizzy Chesson, USEF; Erin Keating, USEF; Kelsey Shanley, USEF; Geoff Teall, Maclay; Oliver Kennedy, THIS/Ariat Medal; David Distler, Gladstone/Devon

Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and roll call

Mrs. Brown called the meeting to order; Ms. Mader took roll. With all members present, a quorum was met. Mrs. Brown then welcomed the guests from USEF and independent Medal programs.

II. Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Williams made a motion to adopt the agenda; Mrs. Healey seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

III. Approval of meeting minutes from April 6, 2020

Ms. Dotoli made a motion to approve the Minutes from April 6th as written; Mrs. Ryan seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

IV. Discussion: Manager/USEF Feedback

Mrs. Brown then invited the managers from the various programs to share any updated or developments.

Ms. Shanley discussed the USEF Hunter Seat Medal. While USEF is looking at various scenarios and options, no changes have been made to date. They will be examining how to utilize software to level the qualifying point by state and region based on the number of shows held. Several of the Task Force member had questions regarding
the resumption of showing and any plan USEF has to assure that qualifying is fair for all riders. USEF’s goals are to adjust qualifying so that the number of entries can be on par with previous years. Currently there are 96 riders qualified vs. 129 riders qualified by 5/3/2019.

Mr. Teall shared that Ms. Campf will assist in the recalculating of qualifying points for Maclay to ensure that every rider has equal opportunity.

Mr. Kennedy also expressed that THIS/Ariat could recalculate points based on regions to level the qualifying.

The Task Force had some concerns that WIHS would not be able to create a fair qualifying method. They suggested few ideas to Mr. Distler. Mr. Distler shared that they are monitoring the situation with their show venue and are looking at alternative options should they be unable to use that building.

Ms. Keating shared that her Task Force met and was in favor of reducing points to qualify if warranted to create ample opportunity for riders to compete in Talent Search Finals. They will be meeting again this week to discuss the program. Currently there are 11 riders qualified in the East and 15 riders qualified in the West.

Mr. Teall and Ms. Shanley discussed plans for Junior Hunter Finals and the plan to keep the event to 2 days, placing a cap on entries if necessary.

The Task Force discussed several ideas such as a qualifying round immediately prior to the Finals to allow for additional opportunity, looking at data for 1 day vs multi days shows in considering qualifying criteria, and the consideration that many riders may not be financially able to participate in Finals once shows open. The Committee felt strongly that all of the Finals should be held and USEF and USHJA should explore options for rescheduling and/or changing locations so that youth have the best chance at having some sort of regular show season.

V. Discussion: Review USHJA Equitation Program Qualifying Criteria

The Task Force reviewed the changes to JSM and HSM that had been approved by the USHJA Board. They were all in approval of the changes. Mrs. Healey expressed concerned as to how to create a fair and equitable selection of the top 130 riders for East Coast JSM since riders are allowed to choose where to compete, and many West Coast riders do compete in the East. Ms. Mader assured the Task Force that USHJA is looking at that scenario to ensure there will be a fair method of selection.

The Task Force reviewed information regarding Gladstone Qualifying Criteria and numbers and decided that the current list was sufficient. They did not wish to send forward any recommendations to the Board at this time.

The Task Force reiterated that they wished to have Finals if at all possible. They tabled any decisions until the next meeting but would like to explore the possibilities of alternative dates and locations, including the winter circuit in Florida and/or the winter circuit in Thermal or AZ.

Mrs. Brown indicated that she would reflect the recommendations of the Task Force at the next Board meeting.

VI. Old business

There was no Old Business to discuss.

VII. New business
There was no New Business to discuss.

VIII. Adjournment

*Mrs. Ryan made the motion to adjourn the meeting; meeting was adjourned at 3:01pm ET*

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