Joint Equitation Task Force Members Participating: Robin Rost Brown (Chair), James Hagman (Vice Chair), Candida Anthony, Susan Baginski, Missy Clark, Cindy Cruciotti, Andre Dignelli, Ann Dotoli, Karen Healey, Stacia Madden, Elizabeth Pandich, Ken Smith (11)

Joint Equitation Task Force Members Not Present: Walter Kees, George Morris (2)

Also Present: Kelsey Shanley (USEF Director, National Affiliates), Lori Nelson (Senior Director, National Affiliate, Competition & Alliance Partner Relationships), Anne Kursinski, DiAnn Langer (USHJA Show Jumping Technical Delegate), Lizzy Chesson (Managing Director, Show Jumping), Geoff Teall, Erin Keating (Managing Director of Sport Programs), Emily Matuszak (USHJA Sport Program Assistant), Mary Babick (USHJA President) (9)

I. Welcome and roll call
Ms. Rost Brown called the meeting to order and Ms. Matuszak performed the roll call; with eleven members present, a quorum was met.

II. Approval of meeting minutes from August 6, 2018
Ms. Baginski made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from August 6, 2018; Mr. Hagman seconded and the motion was passed without further discussion.

III. Action on referred rule change proposals (RCPs)
Ms. Baginski a motion to bring the RCPs to the table for discussion; Mr. Hagman seconded and the motion was passed unanimously without further discussion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rule No.</th>
<th>Tracking No.</th>
<th>Draft</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GR846.0</td>
<td>350-18</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Disapprove</td>
<td>The task force strongly disapproves of this proposal as they do not feel it is possible to implement this system due to time constrains/scheduling concerns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EQ109.0</td>
<td>274-18</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Approved</td>
<td></td>
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USHJA Joint Equitation Task Force Meeting Minutes from October 29-30, 2018
### IV. 2019/2020 USHJA 3’3” Jumping Seat Medal Finals discussion

#### a. Event recaps
- The Task Force reviewed the 2018 USHJA 3’3” Jumping Seat Medal Finals events, the participation numbers, courses and expressed a positive feedback overall.
- Task Force discussed whether a course designer should be required to submit their course for the Task Force to approve before the event but did not reach a conclusion on this idea. The Mr. Hagman suggested making the guidelines for the gymnastics more black and white in response to the Task Force’s concern that some course designers are using too much individuality in their course designs.
- The Task Force suggested utilizing a “choose your own line” gymnastics approach but felt this was too difficult to judge and declined to implement this idea.

#### b. Gymnastics/phase II specifications (i.e., ground poles, etc.)
The Task Force reviewed the courses at each of the Finals events and debated whether to include a minimum of one trot jump or exercise in the gymnastics phase of the event. Some Task Force members discussed their concern with keeping these exercises incorporated in the phase II courses due to legality concerns and the difficulty with judging trot poles. Some Task Force members expressed concern that the USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals prohibits the use of trot jumps thus it is misleading to include these in the Jumping Seat Medal Finals events. Some Task Force members felt these exercises are more suited for training versus in a competition setting. The Task Force requested to have clear language about the permissible exercises in the class specifications.

The Task Force agreed to review this information when preparing the 2020 Specifications revisions.
c. **Updates and clarification to 2019 Finals and class specifications**

The Task Force requested to add language that prohibits the use of placing rails, trotting rails and cavaletti during any phase of the competition for the 2020 USHJA 3’3” Jumping Seat Medal Specifications.

V. **USHJA Hunterdon Cup Equitation Classic Judges selection**

The Task Force members voted for the judges for the 2019 and 2020 USHJA Hunterdon Cup Equitation Classic events.

VI. **USHJA 3’3” Hunter Seat Medal Finals**

   a. **Updates to specifications**

   Task Force made the following changes to the USHJA 3’3” Hunter Seat Medal Specifications:
   1. The Hunterdon Cup Equitation Classic was removed from the list of cross entry restrictions listed in Section II.A.
   2. Section III.F.: “A maximum of 25 riders to return for round II of the event,” was added to the document.
   3. Section III.G. was updated to read, “Testing: two or more tests of a minimum of the top four competitors are required using USEF tests 1-17. In classes with 31 or more entries, at least the top six competitors must return for testing.

   b. **Timeline for implementation**

   - The Task Force briefly discussed two options to implement the USHJA 3’3” Hunter Seat Medal classes and Finals. The Task Force agreed the most appropriate course of action to take was to offer 3’3” Hunter Seat Medal classes starting August 2, 2019 and hold the inaugural 3’3” Hunter Seat Medal Finals at an indoor venue in the Fall of 2020. *Ms. Clark made a motion to approve the timeline to implementation for the USHJA 3’3” Hunter Seat Medal class and Finals; Ms. Baginski seconded and the motion was passed without further discussion.*
   - Ms. Babick reminded the Task Force that USHJA staff needs a minimum of sixty days after the qualifying period ends (i.e., August 1, 2019) before a Finals event can be held. The Task Force agreed, the earliest date to hold the 2020 USHJA 3’3” Hunter Seat Medal Finals event is October 2, 2020.
   - Ms. Rost Brown requested Ms. Matuszak schedule a meeting with the Task Force in November to finalize the USHJA 3’3” Hunter Seat Medal Specifications.

VII. **2019 USEF Hunter Seat Medal Finals Specifications**

   - Ms. Shanley updated the Task Force that she had compiled the USEF Hunter Seat Medal rules in USEF Rulebook, prize lists, etc. into a single document to function as Specifications and Qualifying Criteria moving forward. The Task Force members reviewed the information and provided feedback to Ms. Shanley.
• Ms. Shanley informed the Task Force that a representative from the group will no longer be sent to the USEF Hunter Seat Medal Finals event which was previously done each year. Moving forward, all Task Force members will remain available to address questions for the event. Should an exhibitor bring forward a concern, the Task Force was instructed to pass the information along to the ground jury immediately.

VIII. ASPCA Maclay Regionals discussion (address ability to choose region)
Mr. Teall led a discussion regarding the ASPCA Maclay Regionals and gathered feedback from the Task Force members.
• The Task Force discussed each Regional event individually and provided feedback and suggestions for each.
• Mr. Dignelli and Ms. Madden were proponents of finding a way to standardize the Regionals events to make them similar across the country. Some additional feedback included the suggestion to offer fewer regions and the observation that prizes and warm-up classes are notably differ across all Regionals events. Additionally, some Task Force members cited issues with regions running simultaneously.

IX. USEF Show Jumping Talent Search discussion: future of the events
Ms. Chesson led a discussion on the future of the USEF Show Jumping Talent Search program and the Task Force put forward the following recommendations:
• The water jump: The Task Force agreed, the water jump is problematic for qualifying. Suggested to make the water jump an option and not gimmicky (i.e., with very few flowers/decorations, make it inviting for horses, ensure it is not difficult to get to and prevent it from dictating the judging of the class). The Task Force agreed if the water jump is made and option, it will be necessary to ensure riders are capable of clearing a water jump in order to be selected for the Finals events. The Task Force recommended making the water an option in 2* and mandatory in 3* classes. The Task Force suggested issuing a certificate of capability for the water jump in order to be selected for the Finals events. The Task Force was in favor of keeping the current format of the final four on the same day at the Finals events, as is. The Task Force was unsure if it would be possible to extend the events another day.
• Education: The Task Force liked the idea of introducing an educational aspect or opportunity during the Finals events including the possibility of bringing in a keynote speaker about the history of the sport.
• Date: Some Task Force members expressed their concern with the Finals date as being an issue for some trainers and whether there was a better date to hold the event.
• Star system: Ms. Healy mentioned her concern with the event citing that classes were not filling on the west coast. Ms. Chesson noted that 1* classes are struggling based on data collected. The overall consensus of the group was to consider eliminating the star system. The Task Force briefly discussed the possibility of having 2 levels of the class set at 3’3” and 3’6”/3’9”.

• Gymnastics exercises: The Task Force suggested not using the same gymnastics exercises each year of the event to allow for more variation.

• The Task Force discussed the ongoing issue riders have of finding a horse that is suitable/capable of doing these events.

X. Rider position discussion: posting at the canter
Ms. Rost Brown informed the Task Force a member had brought forward the issue of riders posting at the canter for discussion with the group. Following a brief discussion, the Task Force declined to write a rule in regards to such.

XI. Whip discussion
Ms. Rost Brown initiated a discussion regarding the need for a section on whips in the EQ chapter of the USEF Rulebook. Currently, the only language that exists is in the Hunter and Jumper chapters. The Task Force agreed to write the following language into a RCP for submission in 2019 in the EQ chapter under the appointments section: “Whips. Competitors are prohibited from carrying a whip that is longer than 30” (75cm) while jumping or schooling over fences. A rider may not carry more than one whip.”

XII. EQ112 potential re-write discussion
The Task Force discussed crafting a RCP for EQ112 for submission next year. The Task Force agreed to craft this with the following changes: (1) removal of point 7 and (2), inclusion of a diagram of an appropriate figure eight tract.

XIII. Old business
No old business was discussed.

XIV. New business
No new business was discussed.

XV. Adjournment
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm (EST).
Respectfully,

Emily Matuszak, USHJA Sport Program Assistant