United States Hunter Jumper Association

USHJA Board of Directors Special Meeting

Meeting Minutes
May 24, 2018 – 6:30 p.m. EDT

Board Members Present: Mary Babick, John Bahret, Debbie Bass, Katie Benson, Tom Brennan, Diane Carney, Richard Cram, Dianne Johnson, Britt McCormick, Tobey McWilliams, Betty Oare, Cheryl Rubenstein, Jimmy Torano, Sissy Wickes

Board Members Not Present: Shelley Campf, David Distler, Joe Dotoli, Margie Engle, Anne Kursinski, Larry Langer, Charlotte Skinner-Robson

Staff Present: Kevin Price, Marianne Kutner, Leslie Mangan

I. Welcome
Mary Babick welcomed the Board and the meeting commenced at 6:30 p.m. EDT.

II. Roll Call
Roll call was conducted and it was established that there was a quorum present.

III. Consideration of Rule Change Proposal – Standalone Hunter Derby Sub-Type License
Dianne Johnson made a motion to place the Standalone Hunter Derby Sub-Type License Rule Change Proposal on the floor for discussion and vote. John Bahret seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mary Babick initiated discussion of the amended (Draft #4) of referred RCP #250-17 (HJ201) and communicated that recent consideration has been given to withdrawing the referred RCP #339-17 (GR309) concerning Special Competitions with the plan to resubmit a newly formulated RCP by the September 1, 2018 deadline for consideration in this year’s rule change cycle. If that turns out to be the case, her recommendation was to recommend disapproval of RCP #250-17 as well because the two rule change proposals are so closely related. Because #250-17 was crafted within a relatively short time frame as a result of the release of the Special Competition rule change proposal, it is not fully formulated in a manner that adequately addresses the needs of the current competition environment. If #250-17 is disapproved, USHJA would be tasked with coming up with a new rule change proposal utilizing input from the applicable task forces and the Hunter Working Group, by the September 1, 2018 deadline that addresses securing a place in the environment for the standalone hunter derby competition type to exist.

Discussion ensued regarding the reasons that the rule change proposal falls short of providing an adequate solution for standalone hunter derby competitions.

Tom Brennan made a motion to recommend approval of RCP #250-17 (HJ201) Draft #4. Rick Cram seconded, and the motion was disapproved by unanimous vote of those present.

The following comment was issued to the Federation with the USHJA’s recommendation for disapproval of RCP #250-17 (HJ201):
This rule change proposal was initiated by the USEF National Hunter Committee for the purpose of ensuring that standalone Hunter Derby competitions would have the opportunity to exist within the competition environment should the proposed rewrite of GR309 remove this type of competition from qualifying as a Special Competition. The Recognized Affiliates have not been fully engaged in the process of reworking GR309 and have not been provided with the opportunity to provide critical input with respect to Special Competitions and the impact they have on the Affiliate environment. The lack of communication and narrow windows for response have precluded the Affiliates from having the time and ability to properly develop alternative rule change proposals that are necessary to accommodate Affiliate needs within the Special Competition criteria through #339-17 (GR309).

To that point, USHJA feels that situation has impacted this RCP which is not fully formulated and does not properly address specific concerns:

- There is a lack of clarity within the RCP concerning application of the mileage exemption process. What mileage takes precedence?
- How will the introduction of Regional I and II standalone National Hunter Derbies and Pony Hunter Derbies affect the competition landscape?
- It is important to ensure that the distribution of Zone and HOTY points remains equitable and fair for all competitors and is not skewed by standalone National Hunter Derbies.
- Because mileage exemptions are viewed through a different lens than the current Special Competition approval process there is concern that USHJA oversight and input with respect to standalone derby approval would be decreased or removed entirely with the licensing process currently proposed.
- The licensing process, as currently proposed in this RCP, would have to be reconciled with USHJA’s application process for International Hunter Derbies.

USHJA recommends disapproving this RCP in its current form, but requests additional time be provided to thoroughly analyze both Standalone Hunter Derbies and Special Competitions. In this process, USHJA plans to consider all possible impacts to the competition environment caused by the proposed amendment to GR309 and HJ201. USHJA further recommends engaging all the Recognized Affiliates in the discussion and analysis of the Special Competition topic so fully formulated proposals can be formulated and supported through the rule change process.

It is important to note that changes to the Special Competition rule must work in concert with HJ201. We respectfully request that both rules be withdrawn for further study. New versions of both rule change proposals could be submitted by the rule change deadline of September 1, 2018.

X. Old Business
None

XI. New Business
None

VIII. Adjourn
There being no further business, Betty Oare made a motion to adjourn, and the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m. EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Langer, Secretary

05.24.18 Board of Directors Special Meeting Minutes