

**USHJA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**October 29, 2018 – 6:00 p.m. ET via Teleconference**

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

Members Absent: Anne Kursinski

Others Present: Kevin Price, 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 1, 2018 Executive Committee meeting, as presented. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.*

IV. Consideration of Mileage Exemption Requests

*A motion was made and seconded to place the mileage exemption requests on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.*

Loudoun Benefit (“Applicant Competition”) vs. PJA Jumper Classics & Hollyhurst Farm (“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 68.56 miles (PJA Jumper Classics) with a Jumper mileage boundary of 125 miles, and 87.51 miles (Hollyhurst Farm) with a Hunter mileage boundary of 90 miles.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Priority Competition (Hollyhurst Farm) did not submit a response of any kind to the Applicant’s request for mileage exemption.
- The committee’s opinion is the Priority Competition (PJA Jumper Classics) 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 Level 4 Jumper rating would negatively impact the Priority Competition.
- The committee noted that the Applicant can run its 2019 competition at the Jumper Level 2 with no conflict, and recommends the Applicant pursue that option.

- The committee's opinion is that absent any documented objection to the Applicant's request on the part of the second Priority Competition (Hollyhurst Farm), there seems no reasonable reason why the Applicant's request for mileage exemption to run at the Premier Hunter level would not be granted.

*A motion was made and seconded to recommend **disapproval** of the Applicant's request to conduct its 2019 competition (June 12-16) at the Level 4 Jumper rating, but recommends **approval** of the Applicant's request to conduct its 2018 competition at the Premier (AA) Hunter rating. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.*

Skidmore College Saratoga Spring III ("Applicant Competition") vs. Old Salem Farm May II ("Priority Competition")

John Bahret, Britt McCormick and Charlotte Skinner-Robson identified conflicts of interest with respect to this request, recused themselves 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 Competition is 113.58 with a mileage boundary of 125 miles.
- 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, if approved, a different constituency of competitors would attend the Applicant versus the Priority Competition. Further, the Applicant Competition could meet the needs of the competitors in the New England area who cannot, or otherwise would not, attend the Priority Competition, especially given the fact that the Priority Competition has been running at or near maximum capacity for several years and has been forced to turn entries away in the past due to space limitations.
- The committee's opinion is that absent any documented objection to the Applicant's request on the part of the Priority Competition, there seems no reasonable reason why the Applicant's request for mileage exemption would not be granted.

*Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members present voted unanimously to recommend **approval** of the Applicant's request to conduct its 2019 competition (May 15-19) at the Premier Hunter and Level 3 Jumper ratings.*

John Bahret, Britt McCormick and Charlotte Skinner-Robson rejoined the meeting.

EQUUS Events Tryon May 3 ("Applicant Competition") vs. Kentucky Spring Classic, Sandhills Spring Classic & Spring Challenge ("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 239.97 (Kentucky Spring Classic) and 152.36 (Sandhill's Spring Classic), with a mileage boundary of 250 miles for both.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Priority Competitions (Sandhill's Spring Classic and Spring Challenge) have both granted permission to the Applicant for the mileage exemption.
- The committee further noted that the Priority Competition (Kentucky Spring Classic) would grant the Applicant permission to run at the requested Premier Hunter rating and Jumper Level 4 rating in 2019 with the following restrictions:
  - The Applicant may not offer any hunter classes with more than \$10K in prize money
  - The Applicant may not offer any jumper classes with more than \$25K in prize money.
  - The Applicant may not offer any FEI-sanctioned classes
- The committee's opinion is that since two Priority Competitions (Sandhills Spring Classic and Spring Classic) have provided permission, and the third Priority Competition (Kentucky Spring) has provided its willingness to issue contingent permission, there seems no reasonable reason why the Applicant's request for mileage exemption shouldn't be granted for the requested Hunter and Jumper ratings, with the stipulation that the Applicant honor the restrictions proposed by Kentucky Spring.

*A motion was made and seconded to recommend **approval** of the Applicant's request to conduct its 2019 competition (May 15-19) at the Premier Hunter and Jumper Level 4 rating, **but with the following stipulations: no hunter classes of any kind are offered with prize money in excess of \$10K, no jumper classes of any kind are offered with prize money in excess of \$25K, and no FEI-sanctioned classes are offered.** The motion was unanimously approved.*

V. Consideration of Special Competition, Limiting Entries & Heritage Competition Requests

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

- **Special Competition: 2019 USEF Junior Hunter National Championship – East**  
*A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of the Special Competition request for the 2019 USEF Junior Hunter National Championship – East. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.*
- **Special Competition: 2019 USEF Junior Hunter National Championship – West**  
*A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of the Special Competition request for the 2019 USEF Junior Hunter National Championship – West. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.*
- **Limiting Entries - 2019 Diamond Mills 3'5" Hunter Prix & Platinum Performance 3' Hunter Prix (HITS on the Hudson VIII)**  
*A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of the Limiting Entries request for the 2019 Diamond Mills 3'5" Hunter Prix & Platinum Performance 3' Hunter Prix to be held at HITS on the Hudson VIII. The motion was unanimously approved by those present*

- **Limiting Entries - 2019 Blenheim EquiSports Young Hunter Series & Finals**  
*A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of the Limiting Entries request for the 2019 Blenheim EquiSports Young Hunter Series and its Finals to be held at Blenheim Fall Tournament (#6472). The motion was unanimously approved by those present*
- **Heritage Designation – Tryon Spring 6 – Tryon Riding & Hunt Club 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.

*At the end of discussion, the Executive Committee members present recommended approval for Tryon Spring 6 – Tryon Riding & Hunt Club’s application for USEF Heritage Designation by majority vote with one abstention recorded, but also agreed to recommend to the Federation that the entire Heritage Designation process be reevaluated.*

#### VI. Consideration of Working Group Seating

*Mr. Langer made a motion to place the Working Group Seating on the floor for discussion and vote. Mr. Bahret seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by those present.*

Dianne Johnson, Britt McCormick and Cheryl Rubenstein identified a conflict of interest with respect to the Hunter Working Group agenda item, recused themselves, and left the call.

The committee reviewed the proposed reseating plan for Hunter Working Group for the new term (2018-2022):

- |                                     |                               |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Robin Rost Brown – Interim chair | 11. Britt McCormick (athlete) |
| 2. Linda Andrisani                  | 12. Tobey McWilliams*         |
| 3. Liza Boyd (athlete)              | 13. Betty Oare                |
| 4. Carleton Brooks (athlete)        | 14. Mike Rosser (athlete)     |
| 5. Rick Cram                        | 15. Cheryl Rubenstein*        |
| 6. Ron Danta                        | 16. Debbie Sands              |
| 7. Jim Hagman                       | 17. Louise Serio (athlete)*   |
| 8. Troy Hendricks*                  | 18. Carl Weeden (athlete)     |
| 9. Dianne Johnson*                  | 19. Terri Young               |
| 10. Jessie Lang (athlete)           |                               |

\* Recommended by Zone Committees

*A motion was made and seconded to approve the seating of the Hunter Working Group, as presented. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.*

Dianne Johnson, Britt McCormick and Cheryl Rubenstein returned to the call.

David Distler, Margie Engle, Larry Langer, and Charlotte Skinner-Robson identified a conflict of interest with respect to the Jumper Working Group agenda item, recused themselves, and left the call.

The committee reviewed the proposed reseating plan for Jumper Working Group for the new term (2018-2022):

1. Charlotte Skinner Robson, Interim chair
2. Jeff Campf (athlete)\*
3. Missy Clark
4. Lucy Davis (athlete)
5. David Distler
6. Margie Engle (athlete)
7. Sally Ike
8. Brooke Kemper\*
9. Oliver Kennedy\*
10. Anne Kursinski
11. Jay Land\*
12. Larry Langer
13. Mike Lowry
14. Mandy Porter (athlete)
15. Jason McArdle
16. Jenny Ross-Koning
17. Jimmy Torano
18. Jim Urban\*
19. Ali Wolff

\*Recommended by Zone Committees

Ms. Babick reported to the committee that she had engaged Charlotte Skinner-Robson to rewrite the definition of a USHJA Jumper Athlete and that rewrite will be presented to the Board for approval at their November 19 meeting. Currently, USHJA Jumper Athlete definition matches the criteria used for the USEF Active Athlete list which is quite narrow. As a result, it has proven difficult for USHJA to identify eligible athletes willing to serve on committees. A comment was made that perhaps the Jumper Athlete definition should remain as is, but that an alternative process be established that would allow for seating active and qualified riders that don't technically meet the definition but who are willing to serve in athlete-designated positions. However, this alternative process would be employed only after efforts to secure Jumper Athletes under the current definition had been exhausted. Additional conversation occurred regarding the need to clearly communicate to Jumper Athletes the expectations associated with Board service and the athletes' roles within governance in an effort to mitigate the perceived hesitation some of them have regarding Board service.

*A motion was made and seconded to approve the seating of the Hunter Working Group, as presented. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.*

David Distler, Margie Engle, Larry Langer, and Charlotte Skinner-Robson returned to the call.

#### VII. Consideration of the USEF Licensed Officials Template Project

*A motion was made and seconded to place the Licensed Officials Template Project on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.*

The committee reviewed the executive summary provided within the meeting materials that summarize the proposed changes being made by the Licensed Officials Ad Hoc to the education

requirements for applicants and already licensed judges and course designers. The proposed modifications are made with the intent to strengthen the requirements associated with obtaining and maintaining licenses, thereby resulting in a stronger pool of better educated and better qualified officials.

Discussion ensued and most members agreed that the proposed changes represent a good start in the process, but that continued work needs to occur to make the system even better. A suggestion was made to slightly modify the language associated with Jumper Course Designers that currently mandates that a “R” JP Course Designer “officiate at three or more Level 3 or higher competitions within the past two years.” Concern was raised that, as currently written, a course designer working toward promotion to “R” could fulfill the requirement of officiating three times at large Level 3 competitions, but might do so by working solely in the unrated rings and therefore might never have to build a course over 80 cm. This situation does not necessarily demonstrate that the individual is qualified to build courses for classes at a Level 3 or higher rating. Mary Babick and Britt McCormick agreed to revisit the language to ensure that it clearly communicates the intended requirements for course designers and that they are required to demonstrate the necessary skills needed to build courses at these higher levels of competition.

*At the conclusion of discussion, the Executive Committee members present voted unanimously to approve the Licensed Officials Template project, as presented.*

#### VIII. Conflict of Interest/Fiduciary Duty Discussion

Ms. Babick referenced the memo from Marianne Kutner that was included within the meeting materials addresses fiduciary duty and conflict of interest issues. She encouraged committee members to contact Ms. Kutner with any questions they might have about the material presented.

#### IX. Consideration of Award Committee Proposals

*A motion was made and seconded to place the Awards Committee proposals on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.*

- 2018 USHJA Youth Leadership & USEF Youth Sportsman’s Award Nominees
  - USHJA Youth Leadership Award: Maya Aryal
  - USEF Youth Sportsman’s Award: Lauren Sanderson

*A motion was made and seconded to approve naming Maya Aryal as the 2018 USHJA Youth Leadership Award recipient and Lauren Sanderson as the 2018 USEF Youth Sportsman’s Award recipient. The motion was unanimously approved.*

- 2018 Vital Show Staff Award Nominees
  - East Coast – Liz Soroka
  - West Coast – Anderson Burney

*A motion was made and seconded to approve naming Liz Soroka and Anderson Burney as the 2018 Vital Show Staff Award recipients for the East and West, respectively. The motion was unanimously approved.*

- Update on USHJA National Championship Perpetual Trophies

Award Committee Chair Cheryl Rubenstein summarized the update prepared by Pat Boyle and provided within the meeting materials regarding the status of perpetual trophies and section

sponsors being secured for the AON/USHJA National Championships. No action was necessary.

X. Consideration of Zone & Sport Program Requests

*A motion was made and seconded to place all the Zone and Sport Program requests on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.*

- **2019 WCHR Palm Beach Spectacular Specifications**

*Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the 2019 WCHR Palm Beach Spectacular Specifications, as presented.*

- **2019 Zone 2 Equitation Championship Specifications**

*Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the 2019 Zone 2 Equitation Championship Specifications, as presented.*

- **2019 Zone 4 Handy Hunter Challenge Specifications**

*Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the 2019 Zone 2 Equitation Championship Specifications, as presented.*

- **2019 Zone 10 NAYC Selection Trial Host Locations**

*Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the 2019 Zone 10 NAYC Selection Trial Host Locations, as presented.*

- **2019 Zone Jumper Team Championship Specification Amendments**

The committee reviewed the proposed amendments to the specifications that call for modifying 24-hour stabling requirement, allowing draw reins to be used during awards presentations and victory gallops, modifying the prize money payout, and changing the tie-breaking mechanism from day one's time to a jump-off.

*Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the 2019 Zone Jumper Team Championship Specification amendments, as presented.*

VIII. Old Business

None

IX. New Business

None

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn, and the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. EDT.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:  
Larry Langer, Secretary