USHJA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

September 4, 2018 – 6:00 p.m. ET via Teleconference

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

Members Absent: David Distler, Anne Kursinski, Larry Langer

Others Present: Katlynn Sacco (USEF), Kevin Price, Leslie Mangan

I. Roll Call
   Roll call was conducted and a quorum was met.

II. Adoption of Amended Agenda
   A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda which was amended to remove the 2019 USHJA Young Hunter Pony Championship Host selection from consideration. 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 August 6, 2018 Executive Committee meeting, as presented. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.

V. 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.

Princeton Show Jumping May (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Monmouth County May & Garden State Horse Show (“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 25.19 miles (Monmouth County) and 20.67 miles (Garden State Horse Show) with a mileage boundary of 90 and 125 miles respectively.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Priority Competition (Garden State Horse Show) will be changing venue in 2019 from Augusta, NJ to Gladstone, NJ, but will still maintain its Priority status. This venue change makes the Applicant competition approximately 43 miles closer in proximity to Garden State Horse Show than would have been the case prior to the venue change.
- The committee’s opinion is that there is no shortage of competitive opportunities in this geographic area at this time of year, and that the existing Priority competitions are currently
meeting the needs of competitors in the area, and no evidence has been presented to indicate that either Priority Competition will not be running in 2019. The committee does not agree with the Applicant’s opinion that allowing a new competition to enter the environment at the Applicant’s requested ratings will hopefully “fill this assumed hole in the schedule.”

- The committee feels it is generally not in the best interest of the sport to approve a Premier-rated competition that would be held over the same dates and within the mileage boundary as existing Priority Regional-rated competitions (in this case Monmouth), and feels that approving the Applicant’s request would negatively impact that Priority Competitions.
- The committee noted from the provided materials that the Applicant Competition can run without conflict at a Jumper Level 2 rating, and recommends the Applicant pursue that option.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend disapproval of the Applicant’s request to conduct its 2019 competition (May 1-5, 2019) at the Premier Hunter and Level 4 Jumper ratings. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.

Kentucky CSI 3* Invitational (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Brownland Farm Spring II (“Priority Competition”)

Charlotte Skinner-Robson identified a conflict of interest with respect to this request, recused herself, and left the meeting prior to deliberation and vote.

The committee considered the following in its review:

- The committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competitions is 200.29 miles with a mileage boundary of 250 miles.
- The committee noted from the provided materials that the Applicant Competition plans to run as an FEI-specific invitational event that is strictly limited to 30 riders.
- The committee’s opinion is that based on horse entry numbers, the Applicant Competition had little, if any, negative impact on the horse entry numbers of the Priority Competition in 2018, and in fact the horse entry number for the Priority Competition increased slightly from 2017 to 2018.
- The committee’s opinion is that the Applicant competition, due in part because it is an FEI event, attracts a different set of jumper competitors than does the Priority Competition, and that these competitors would not likely attend the Priority Competition in the absence of the Applicant competition.
- The committee’s opinion is that the uniqueness and quality of the Applicant Competition, which enjoyed local community support and involvement in its initial year running, provides exceptional promotional benefits for the sport and thereby increases visibility for the sport and elevates the discipline of show jumping.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of the Applicant’s request to conduct its 2019 competition (April 26-27, 2019) at the Level 6 Jumper ratings. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.

Charlotte Skinner-Robson rejoined the meeting.
Maryland Summer Classic (‘Applicant Competition’) vs. Devon & 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 84.92 miles (Devon) and 55.66 miles (Hollyhurst Farm), with a mileage boundary of 125 miles and 90 miles respectively.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Priority Competition (Devon) confirmed Perpetual Permission to the Applicant.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Priority Competition (Hollyhurst Farm) has historically provided the Applicant with permission, but in this particular instance did not submit a response of any kind.
- The committee feels that absent receipt of any documented objection to the Applicant’s request, there is no reasonable reason why the Applicant’s request for mileage exemption would not be granted.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of the Applicant’s request to conduct its 2019 competition (May 24-26, 2019) at the National Hunter and Level 1 Jumper ratings. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.

Longines Global Champions Tour of Miami Beach (‘Applicant Competition’) vs. Equestrian Sport Productions Spring 3 (‘Priority Competition’)

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 Competition is 58.92 miles with a mileage boundary of 250 miles.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Applicant Competition has run in previous years without conflict under a different license that has become inactive. Application for a new license has caused the resulting mileage conflict.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Priority Competition did not submit a response to the Applicant’s request.
- The committee’s opinion is that the Applicant competition, due in part because it is an FEI event, attracts a different set of jumper competitors than does the Priority Competition, and that these competitors would not likely attend the Priority Competition in the absence of the Applicant competition.
- The committee feels that absent receipt of any documented objection to the Applicant’s request, there is no reasonable reason why the Applicant’s request for mileage exemption would not be granted.
A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of the Applicant’s request to conduct its 2019 competition (April 18-21, 2019) at the Level 4 Jumper rating. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.

Palm Beach Open (“Applicant Competition”) vs. WEF 10 & Ocala Winter Celebration (“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 0.59 miles (WEF 10) and 223.16 (Ocala Winter Celebration) with a mileage boundary of 250 miles for both.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Priority Competition (Ocala Winter Celebration) granted permission to the Applicant’s request, but the Priority Competition (WEF 10) denied the Applicant’s request.
- The committee noted from the provided materials that the Applicant Competition plans to run as an FEI-specific event that appeals to a very specific segment of Jumper constituents.
- The committee’s opinion is that while there a high density and competitive level of competitors exists in this geographic area at this time of year, and granting permission to the Applicant Competition might alleviate overcrowding of horses and/or competitors and provide alternate competitive opportunities, that alone does not necessarily warrant granting a mileage exemption under GR315.
- The committee’s opinion is that it is not in the best interest of the sport to allow the Applicant to run CSI 1* classes in such close proximity to the Priority Competition (WEF 10) which provides similar offerings for the same set of Jumper competitors. The committee feels that if the Applicant’s request is approved, as presented, it may result in a negative impact on the Priority Competition (WEF 10).
- The committee’s opinion is that the environment in this area at this time of year could support a new competition at the Applicant’s requested rating of FEI CSI 5* and that by coordinating with the Priority Competition in scheduling, could allow competitors to support both competitions.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of the Applicant’s request to conduct its 2019 competition (March 13-17, 2019) at the Level 6 Jumper ratings with the stipulation that only CSI 5* classes be conducted. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.

VI. Consideration of Proposed Rule EOs and Clarifications

A motion was made and seconded to place the proposed Extraordinary Rule Changes and clarifications on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.

The committee reviewed the following proposed rule clarifications:
• HJ112.2 – Clarification to the National Hunter Rating entry requirements that corrects the minimum horse entry requirement (75 as opposed to 100) that was causing an unintended conflict with HJ108.

Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the proposed rule clarification to HJ112.2, as presented.

• JP117.2 – Clarification to approved rule change 167-17 that ensures that the mandatory splits for classes with 80 or more entries applies to Junior Jumpers and Amateur Jumpers as the original rule change had intended.

Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the proposed rule clarification to JP117.2, as presented.

• HU196.4 – Clarification to the insert the point chart into the USEF Rulebook for Green Hunter Incentive classes since HOTY points will be awarded in these classes beginning December 1, 2018. Ms. Babick noted that this clarification will be entered into the rule change system on a provisional basis pending execution of an MOU between USEF and USHJA. Upon execution of that document, this clarification will be withdrawn.

Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the proposed rule clarification to HU196.4, as presented.

The committee reviewed three proposed Extraordinary Rule Change Proposals that, if approved, will clarify the acceptable types of microchips that can be used for horse identification purposes in order to comply with the rules. The clarification language will be inserted into the following rules:

• EQ103.3.2
• HU101.3.2
• JP100.3.2

Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the proposed Extraordinary Rule Changes to EQ103.3.2, HU101.3.2 and JP100.3.2, as presented.

VII. Consideration of Zone & Sport Program Requests

Specifications
A motion was made and seconded to place all the Sport Program Specifications on the floor for discussion and vote. Mr. Bahret seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by those present.

• 2019 Children’s & Adult Amateur Hunter Championship Specifications
Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the 2019 Children & Adult Amateur Hunter Championship Specifications, as presented.

• 2019 National Hunter Derby Specifications
The committee reviewed the proposed specifications, and questions were raised about the competition requirements section that addressed voluntary and mandatory class splits. At
the conclusion of discussion, the committee decided to table deliberation on the specifications and send them back to the Hunter Working Group to readdress the section in question.

*A motion was made and seconded to table consideration of the 2019 National Hunter Derby Specifications and send them back to the Hunter Working Group for additional consideration. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.*

- **2019 Green Hunter Incentive Specifications**
  The committee reviewed the proposed specifications. Questions were raised about the judging format section, and specifically the proposed method for scoring Incentive classes that run concurrently with another green section. At the conclusion of discussion, the committee decided to table deliberation on the specifications and send them back to the Hunter Working Group to readdress the section in question.

*A motion was made and seconded to table consideration of the 2019 Green Hunter Incentive Specifications and send them back to the Hunter Working Group for additional consideration. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.*

- **2019 Green Hunter Incentive Regional Championship Specifications**
  Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the 2019 Children & Adult Amateur Hunter Championship Specifications.

- **2019 International Hunter Derby Specifications**
  The committee reviewed the specifications and noted that one of cover memos indicated that the high option fences for One Star IHD were changed from a minimum of two to a minimum of three, but the chart presented did not reflect that correction.

*At the conclusion of discussion, the Executive Committee members present voted unanimously to approve the 2019 International Hunter Derby Specifications with the amendment that the chart be corrected to reflect that the high option fences for One Star IHD were changed from a minimum of two to a minimum of three.*

- **2019 International Hunter Derby Welcome Stake Specifications**
  Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the 2019 International Hunter Derby Welcome Stake Specifications, as presented.

**Host Locations**

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

- **2019-2021 Green Hunter Incentive Regional Championship Hosts**
  Dianne Johnson and John Bahret both identified a conflict of interest with respect to this agenda item, recused themselves, and left the meeting prior to discussion and vote.

*At the conclusion of brief discussion, the Executive Committee members present voted unanimously to approve the 2019-2021 Green Hunter Incentive Regional Championship host selections, as presented.*
Dianne Johnson and John Bahret rejoined the meeting.

- **2019 Children’s and Adult Amateur Hunter Championship Hosts**
  
  Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members present voted unanimously to approve the 2019-2021 Green Hunter Incentive Regional Championship host selections, as presented.

- **2019 Platinum Championships & Zone Jumper Team Championship Hosts**
  
  Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members present voted unanimously to approve the 2019 Platinum Championship & Zone Jumper Team Championship host selections, as presented.

- **2019 & 2020 Jumping Seat Medal Finals Hosts**
  
  Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members present voted unanimously to approve the 2019 & 2020 3’3” Jumping Seat Medal Final host selections, as presented.

- **2019 & 2019/2020 Zone Program Hosts**
  
  Dianne Johnson, Shelley Campf, and John Bahret identified a conflict of interest with respect to this agenda item, recused themselves, and left the meeting prior to discussion and vote.
  
  Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members present voted unanimously to approve the 2019 & 2019/20 Zone Program host selections, 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 7:15 p.m. EDT.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Larry Langer, Secretary