



USHJA Zone 6 Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 18, 2020 - 10:00 p.m. CT / 11:00 p.m. ET

Committee Members Participating: Mark Aplin (Chair), Dan Urban (Vice Chair), Amy Aplin, Rae Doerring, Kendra Gohr, Sybil Greene, Betsy Kieffer, Greg Novak, Sue Novak, Danielle Urban and Patrice Urban (11).

Committee Members Not Present: Courtney Hayden-Fromm-EXC, Stacey Opperman-EXC and Heather Parrish-EXC. (3)

Also Present: Morgan Thibodeaux (Sports Program Coordinator), Kristin Rover (Regional Communications Coordinator) and Lynn Johnson (Sports Program Assistant) (3).

I. Welcome and Roll Call

Mr. Aplin called the meeting to order and Ms. Thibodeaux called roll. A quorum was met with eleven committee members present.

II. Approve the minutes

Mr. Urban made a motion to approve the April 13, 2020 minutes. Ms. Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion passed with no abstentions.

III. 2021 Zone 6 Specifications

Ms. Thibodeaux advised the Committee there were no member comments received for the Zone 6 2021 Specifications. Ms. Thibodeaux advised the Stirrup Program has been discontinued for 2021 and forward. As a result, the Hunter Working Group has voted to have the Zones add the Low Childrens and Low Adult Hunters to their HOTY. Ms. Thibodeaux provided the Committee with a copy of the 2020 Stirrup Cup Specifications. The Committee can adopt the same specs as listed for the Stirrup Cup or they can change them however they would like. Discussion was held concerning affiliate specs for these divisions and the Stirrup Cup specs. Ms. Kieffer stated the MHJA specs for this division have a cross entry restriction of horse/rider combination. The combination cannot cross enter in classes exceeding 2'9" at the same competition. The rider can enter classes exceeding 2'9" on another horse. Ms. Kieffer was in favor of making this change. Mr. Aplin suggested add "or .85m in the Jumpers". Ms. Kieffer will send the MHJA specs to Ms. Thibodeaux with Mr. Aplin's suggestion to Ms. Thibodeaux who will write them and add them to the current draft 2021 Zone 6 Specifications. The new specs will be sent by email to the Committee members for an email approval vote. When approved, the final version of the specs will be sent to USEF to be used for points recording.

IV. 2021 Zandra Powers Specifications

Ms. Thibodeaux advised the recommendation to cancel the 2020 Zandra Powers was approved. Ms. Kieffer had sent Committee members a draft of the new specs for the 2021 Zandra Powers for discussion. Up for discussion was whether to add a riding portion. Mr. Aplin stated he was in favor of leaving this as a test and practical exercise class as it would draw more entries. The Committee decided to leave it as non-riding. Ms. Thibodeaux will put the draft in a USHJA format and send to the Committee by email for approval.

V. Letter from Sissy Wickes

Ms. Thibodeaux sent a copy of the Sissy Wickes letter to the Committee. The Zone Council had asked that it be distributed to each Zone Committee for discussion on how to possibly bring more people into the sport. Discussion ensued. The Committee will pass out the letter to local groups that they feel could benefit from it. They will also include the letter in their Zone newsletter.

VI. Old Business

Mr. Aplin updated the Committee on the Zone Council and the Zone realignment. Mr. Aplin is on the subcommittee that will address possible needs for Zone realignment. This group will be looking all factors such as geographic area and size of Zone, how many regularly go out of Zone to show (and why) and if more Zones are needed. Mr. Aplin stated USHJA would like to do this for 2022; some would like to do it for 2021 due to the “chaos” of this year with the pandemic. It is thought most of the adjustments would involve the Midwest and the South (the Northeast appears to be very happy with their setup). A big consideration is where people are showing and why. If people are frequently going to another Zone (usually a contiguous state) to show, maybe that should be considered for realignment. There will be many factors to consider.

Mr. Urban asked if there were any updates regarding reaching out to the affiliates about adapting the Handy Hunter Challenge for their members. Ms. Kieffer stated she did not have any. Mr. Urban stated he will send an email with ideas to her concerning how the affiliates could model this Zone class for their shows.

VII. New Business

Ms. Rover stated she is working on member spotlights for the Zone emails. She asked the Committee to forward her suggestions for who to feature and any other ideas they would like to see. Ms. Rover will send an email to Committee members with contact information.

VIII. Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:28a.m. ET.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Johnson
Sports Program Assistant