

USHJA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2018 – 6:00 p.m. ET via Teleconference

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

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.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the February 5, 2018 Executive Committee meeting, as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

VI. Consideration of USEF Limiting Entries Requests

A motion was made and seconded to place all Limiting Entries requests on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

- 2018 Blenheim EquiSports Young Hunter Series & Championship
A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2018 Blenheim EquiSports Young Hunter Series and its final to be held at Blenheim Fall Tournament (#6472). The motion was unanimously approved.
- 2018 Blowing Rock Challenge of Champions
A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2018 Challenge of Champions to be held at the Blowing Rock Charity Horse Show (#246212). The motion was unanimously approved.
- 2018 National Horse Show Hunter Classic
A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2018 National Horse Show Hunter Classic. The motion was unanimously approved.

V. Consideration of Zone & Sport Program Requests

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

- 2018 WCHR West Coast Hunter Spectacular Specifications
The committee reviewed the proposed specifications, which added a mandatory jog and aligned the HOTY point language with the Palm Beach Spectacular event. The committee noted that there was no mandate for a veterinarian to officiate at the jog. The group agreed that this requirement should be added to these specifications, as well as to the 2019 Palm Beach Spectacular specifications when they are prepared for review.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2018 WCHR West Coast Hunter Spectacular Specifications with the stipulation that a veterinarian be added to the list of officials required to be present for the jog. Additionally, the requirement for a veterinarian to be present during the jog should be included the 2019 WCHR Palm Beach Spectacular Specifications. The motion was unanimously approved.

- 2018 Jumping Seat Medal Finals Specifications
The committee reviewed the materials presented and noted a discrepancy in the dates listed for the qualifying period which excluded almost two months' worth of dates from the year-long qualification period. Additionally, it was noted that eligibility for competitors in their last year as junior riders was not addressed. The suggestion was made to add language consistent with section EQ110.5.4.a of the USEF Rule Book, thereby aligning the junior eligibility language with that of the USEF Medal.

A motion was made and seconded to table the vote on the 2018 Jumping Seat Medal Finals until the adjustments could be made to the qualifying language. The motion was unanimously approved.

[**Addendum to minutes: The language amendments were made and distributed to the Executive Committee members for email vote on March 9, 2018. The following amended qualification language was approved by majority vote:

B. A rider is qualified to compete in the USHJA 3'3" Jumping Seat Medal Finals when they have accumulated a minimum of ten (10) points in **any** USHJA 3'3" Jumping Seat Medal classes ~~at least sixty (60) days prior to the 3'3" Jumping Seat Medal Finals~~ **between September 30 and held from August 2 of the previous competition year through August 1 of the current competition year.**

C. Any rider in his or her final junior year may not compete in any qualifying classes held at a competition with a start date after August 1 of that competition year.

- 2018 Zone Equitation Championships (EQ111) – Zones 2 & 7
A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2018 Zone Equitation Championship requests received from both Zones 2 and 7. The motion was unanimously approved.

[**Addendum to minutes: subsequent to approval, USHJA was informed that the Zone 2 Championship host (Competition #327049) does not have a license that makes it eligible to host a US Hunter Seat Medal Zone Championship. As a result, the Executive Committee members were contacted by email and asked to rescind their votes. As of March 20, 2018, the majority vote allowing Zone 2 to host a US Hunter Seat Medal Zone Championship at Competition #327049 was officially rescinded.]

- 2019 NACHJYRC Selection Procedures
The committee reviewed the documents, slightly amended on March 1, 2018, that changed the qualifying period end date from June 3, 2019 to June 2, 2019 to avoid a conflict with the 2019 Upperville Colt & Horse Show.
Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee voted unanimously to approve the 2019 NACHJYRC Selection Procedures, amended on March 1, 2018, as presented.
- 2019 USEF National Junior Jumper Championship (Prix des States) Selection Procedures
Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee voted unanimously to approve the 2019 USEF National Junior Jumper Championship Selection Procedures, as presented.
- 2019 Zone-Specific Equitation/Horsemanship Class Specifications
The committee reviewed specifications for the following 2019 classes and noted that other than the year referenced, no changes were made to the specifications themselves:
Zone 3 LM “Sandy” Gerald Equitation Championship
Zone 5 Horsemanship Class
Zone 6 Zandra Powers Horsemanship Class
Zone 7 Equitation Championship

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2019 Zone-specific Equitation/Horsemanship class specifications, as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

VI. Special Competition Request – 2018 World Equestrian Games/WEQx Games

A motion was made and seconded to place the 2018 World Equestrian Games/WEQx Games Special Competition request on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

Both David Distler and Larry Langer identified conflicts of interest with this agenda item, recused themselves, and left the meeting prior to discussion and vote.

The committee members reviewed the materials provided by the Federation and lengthy discussion took place. Reports were provided by representatives from both the USEF Jumper Sport Committee and the USEF National Hunter Committee, both of which recommended disapproval of the Special Competition request. Among the many concerns raised the following comments/observations were made:

- The committee feels very strongly that the priority event is the World Equestrian Games and that this proposed exhibition event only compromises the integrity of the World Championships by distracting from their importance and undermining their significance.
- The committee’s opinion is that the proposed event’s schedule, structure and offerings are neither in the best interest of horse welfare, nor are they in the best interest of the sport, as a whole.
- The committee has concerns with respect to stabling and scheduling for this proposed event and feels it will pose significant problems to the World Games themselves in attempting to accommodate all the auxiliary activities associated with the WEQX Games.

- The committee’s opinion is that if the Federation approves this Special Competition request, especially against the recommendations of its own sport committees and Recognized Affiliates, it will be doing so in direct contradiction to its commitment to ensure the safety and welfare of our horses, and its dedication to serve as the “guardians of equestrian sport.”

*At the conclusion of discussion, the Executive Committee recommended **disapproval** of the World Equine Expo/WEQx Games request for Special Competition status by unanimous vote of those present on the call.*

VII. Old Business
None

IX. New Business
None

X. Adjournment
There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn, and the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. EST.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Larry Langer, Secretary