USHJA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
Monday, February 24, 2020 – 7:00 p.m. ET

Board Members Present: Mary Babick, John Bahret, Katie Benson, Richard Cram, David Distler, Joseph Dotoli, Dianne Johnson, Brooke Kemper, Anne Kursinski, Britt McCormick, Tobey McWilliams, Betty Oare, Mike Rosser, Robin Rost Brown, Cheryl Rubenstein, Charlotte Skinner-Robson, James Urban, Caroline Weeden, Sissy Wickes

Board Members Not Present: Margie Engle

Staff Present: Kevin Price, Mary Hope Kramer, Marianne Kutner

I. Welcome
   Mary Babick welcomed the Board and the meeting commenced at 7:00 p.m. ET.

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

III. Approval of Agenda
    Tobey McWilliams made a motion to adopt the agenda. Charlotte Skinner-Robson seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

IV. USEF/USHJA Recognized Affiliate Agreement
    Ms. Skinner-Robson made a motion to place the USEF/USHJA Recognized Affiliate Agreement on the floor for discussion and vote. John Bahret seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

    Ms. Babick noted that there had been lengthy negotiations with USEF to develop and negotiate the terms of the Recognized Affiliate Agreement.

    In the initial opening statements of the agreement, it was noted that language was added to clarify that: “Since 2004, USHJA has continuously been recognized by the USEF as the sole Recognized Affiliate for the Hunter and Jumper disciplines.”

    It was pointed out that much of the language in Section 1, USEF Obligations, was drawn directly from the USEF Bylaws and was therefore not negotiable. A question was asked about item 1.14 regarding USEF’s obligation to “facilitate the training and licensing of officials”, since USHJA is specifically obligated to handle such training. Kevin Price clarified that USEF Bylaws required that USEF facilitate the training of officials, but that they had delegated the responsibility for training to USHJA as the Affiliate. A question was also asked about item 1.18 as it appeared to be a fairly broad statement (“establish national goals and encourage attainment of those goals”). Ms. Babick noted that there was language further on in the document that would address this concern. A similar question was raised about the broad nature of item 1.26 regarding USEF’s ability to “act autonomously in the governance of equestrian sport, and independently determine and control all matters central to such governance.” Ms. Babick replied that this was part of the USEF Bylaws and not negotiable. Ms. Babick continued to note
that items 1.28 to 1.32 were important additions since they clearly define Federation responsibilities, USHJA responsibilities, and specific areas where responsibilities are shared.

It was noted that in Section 2, Recognized Affiliate Obligations, that USHJA would “support” USEF’s Non-Discrimination Policy. Ms. Babick highlighted the important late addition of language in Section 2 under Recognized Affiliate Obligations, which was not included on the original document sent to the Directors for review. The language for the new 2.16 reads: “Develop programs to meet the needs of the hunter and equitation disciplines. USEF shall raise concerns about any significant areas they deem underserved in these disciplines. Should USHJA choose not to develop and implement programs to address these needs, then USEF may develop and implement such programs.” This language clearly specifies the conditions under which USEF could step in to create programs in the hunter or equitation disciplines.

It was also pointed out in section 5, Termination of Affiliation, that USHJA could not be terminated as the Recognized Affiliate without due process under the USEF Bylaws, as specifically outlined under Bylaw 205.

Ms. Babick was asked whether the new language (2.16) would prevent the situation that arose with the Amateur Owner Championship, and she agreed. She also noted that USEF indicated the language would be included for other Affiliates, which is why it was not as USHJA-specific as originally suggested.

At the conclusion of discussion, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to approve the USEF/USHJA Recognized Affiliate Agreement.

X. Old Business
None

XI. New Business
None

XII. Adjourn
There being no further business, Betty Oare made a motion to adjourn, and the February 2020 special meeting of the USHJA Board of Directors was adjourned February 24, 2020 at 7:22 p.m. ET.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Johnson, Secretary