

USHJA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

October 1, 2018 – 6:00 p.m. ET via Teleconference

Members Participating: Mary Babick, John Bahret, David Distler, Anne Kursinski, Larry Langer, Britt McCormick, Cheryl Rubenstein, Charlotte Skinner-Robson

Members Absent: Shelley Campf, Margie Engle, Dianne Johnson

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 cumulatively approve the minutes from the August 22, 2018 and the September 4, 2018 Executive Committee meetings, 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.

Temecula Valley National Horse Show May Welcome (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Showpark Spring Festival & Annual Flintridge Horse Show (“Priority Competitions”)

Larry Langer and Charlotte Skinner-Robson both identified a conflict of interest with this request, recused themselves, and left the meeting during discussion and vote.

The committee considered the following in its review:

- The committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competitions is 36.75 (Showpark Spring Festival) and 81.92 (Annual Flintridge Horse Show), with a mileage boundary of 250 miles.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the two Priority Competitions have successfully coexisted for the past several years operating on a grandfathered agreement outlining certain restrictions placed on the divisions and ratings each is allowed to offer.
- The committee is not aware of any reports of competition standard violations on the part of either Priority Competition, nor any reports of overcrowding at the Priority Competition (Annual Flintridge) and both competitions are meeting the needs of

exhibitors in this area at this time of year. There is no evidence to support that the issues alleged by the Applicant exist.

- The committee's opinion is that the Applicant Competition, if approved, would not be offering competitive opportunities that are new or different from those already being provided by the Priority Competitions.
- The committee recognizes that the Applicant offers many positive additions in its newly renovated venue and innovative competitor amenities, but the committee feels those alone do not warrant a mileage exemption under GR315. The committee recommends the Applicant work with the management teams of both Priority Competitions to find an alternative date that can better accommodate and support all three competitions. The committee's opinion is that this would result in a positive impact on the environment by enhancing the offerings available to the existing pool of exhibitors in the area rather than competing for that same pool of exhibitors at the expense of the other competitions.

*At the conclusion of discussion, the Executive Committee members present voted unanimously to recommend **disapproval** of the Applicant's request to conduct its 2019 competition (April 24-28, 2019) at the National Hunter/Level 4 jumper rating.*

Mr. Langer and Ms. Skinner-Robson rejoined the meeting

Split Rock Jumping Tour – Lexington International (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Tryon May 4 & Nashville Country (“Priority Competitions”)

David Distler identified a conflict of interest with respect to this request, recused himself and left the meeting during discussion and vote.

The committee considered the following in its review:

- The committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competitions is 233.47 (Tryon May 4) and 204.06 (Nashville Country), with a mileage boundary of 250 miles.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Priority Competition (Tryon May 4) was granted FEI CSI3* status in 2018 and has a pending request to do the same for 2019. The committee further noted that the Applicant is requesting FEI CSI2* status as compared to the 3* status under which it ran in 2015, 2016 and 2017. If this request it approved, it will place two FEI events in relatively close proximity to one another running with concurrent dates.
- The committee also noted from the materials provided that the Applicant is requesting a lower Jumper Level rating again in 2019 (Level 5) than the Level 6 rating under which it ran in 2015, 2016 and 2017.
- The committee's opinion is that running at this lower Jumper Level makes the Applicant Competition more likely to compete for the same constituency of Jumper competitors as the Priority Competitions, and therefore cause a negative impact to both. This opinion is further supported by noting the downward horse entry numbers from 2016-2018 on the part of the Priority Competition Nashville Country.
- The committee's opinion is that the density of available competitors in this geographic area at this time of year does not adequately support another

competition in the environment essentially vying for the same pool of exhibitors that is currently being supported by the Priority Competitions.

- However, the committee would consider recommending approval if the Applicant competition returned to its original format and ran at the Jumper Level 6/FEI CSI 3* rating. The committee feels doing so would benefit the sport by making the Applicant competition more unique and allow it to provide enhanced competitive options not offered by Priority competitions within the mileage over those dates.

*At the conclusion of discussion, the Executive Committee members present voted unanimously to recommend **disapproval** of the Applicant's request to conduct its 2019 competition (May 22-26, 2019) at the Level 5 jumper rating.*

Mr. Distler rejoined the meeting.

VI. Consideration of 2019 Mandatory Fee Collection Request

A motion was made and seconded to place the Mandatory Fee Collection Request on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.

- Texas Hunter Jumper Association. – the committee reviewed the materials provided by the Federation and after brief discussion, agreed that the Texas Hunter Jumper Association's request to collect \$3 per exhibitor at THJA recognized competitions in 2019 was reasonable especially given that the money raised would be used to benefit the Association's membership by offering educational and grant opportunities.

Hearing no further discussion, the Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the Texas Hunter Jumper Association's request to collect \$3 per entry at THJA recognized competitions in 2019 in order to be able to provide its membership with enhanced educational and grant opportunities.

VII. 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.

Charlotte Skinner-Robson identified a conflict of interest with this agenda item, recused herself, and left the meeting prior to discussion and vote.

- 2018 USEF Pegasus Award Nominees
The committee reviewed the 2018 USEF Pegasus Award Nominees proposed:
 - Lifetime Achievement Award – Hap Hansen
 - Pegasus Medal of Honor – Robert Ridland
 - Ellen Scripps David Memorial Breeder's Cup – Patrick Rodes
 - Junior Equestrian of the Year – Isabella de Sousa
 - EQUUS Foundation Humanitarian Award – Stuart Pittman and the Retired Racehorse Project
 - William C. Steinkraus Trophy – McLain Ward
 - Emerson Burr Trophy – Victoria Colvin

- Walter B. Devereaux Sportsmanship Award – Charlotte Skinner-Robson
- Richard McDevitt Award of Merit – Michael Rheinheimer and J. Richard Wilkinson
- Horse of the Year: FEI – Eddie Blue
- Horse of the Year: National – Private Practice

Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee voted unanimously to approve the 2018 USEF Pegasus Award nominees, as presented.

Ms. Skinner-Robson returned to the meeting.

- J. Arthur “Bucky” Reynolds, II Award of Merit
The committee considered the Awards Committee’s proposal to create a new USHJA year-end award to posthumously honor meritorious service to the sport. The award does not have to be awarded on an annual basis and is contingent upon raising the requisite funding (\$2,500 - \$2,800) to commission the perpetual trophy. If funding is secured in a timely manner, the inaugural presentation will occur at the 2018 Evening of Equestrians dinner at Annual Meeting with Bucky Reynolds being the first recipient.

Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members present voted unanimously to institute the J. Arthur “Bucky” Reynolds, II Award of Merit as a USHJA Year-End Award.

VIII. 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. Mr. Bahret seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by those present.

- **2019 WCHR Specification Clarification**
Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the 2019 WCHR Specification Clarification, as presented, that clarifies the eligibility and calculation of points, especially with respect to championships.
- **2019 National Hunter Derby Specifications**
The committee reviewed the proposed specifications, which were tabled at the September 4 meeting and sent back to the Hunter Working Group for reevaluation of the language concerning mandatory class splits. The Hunter Working Group agreed to the Executive Committee’s recommendations, amended the specifications accordingly, and represented the specifications.
Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the 2019 National Hunter Derby Specifications, as presented.
- **2019 Green Hunter Incentive Specifications**
The committee reviewed the proposed specifications, which were tabled at the September 4 meeting and sent back to the Hunter Working Group for reconsideration of the concurrent judging method. The Hunter Working Group reconsidered the section, but voted to leave the language as originally presented.

Additionally, the HOTY point chart was inserted into the specifications since the class becomes eligible for HOTY points in the 2019 competition year.
Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the 2019 Green Hunter Incentive Specifications, as presented.

- **2019 Green Hunter Incentive Regional Championship Specification Amendment**

The committee considered an amendment that adds the HOTY point chart to the specifications since the regional championship classes become eligible for HOTY points in the 2019 competition year.

Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members present unanimously approved the amendment to the 2019 Green Hunter Regional Championship Specifications, as presented.

- **2019 WCHR Palm Beach Spectacular Specifications**

The committee reviewed the proposed specifications. Concern was expressed over the section outlining the rider's meeting; specifically that having only one member of the judging panel present at the meeting might disadvantage the other judges if they were not privy to the same information. A suggestion was made to pattern the meeting after the International Hunter Derby Championship and attempt to have all the officiating judges present in addition to the exhibitors.

A motion was made and seconded to table consideration of the 2019 WCHR Palm Beach Spectacular Specifications and send them back to the WCHR Task Force for further review of the section regarding the rider's meeting. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.

- **2019 Zone Stirrup Cup Specifications**

The committee reviewed the proposed specifications, and it was noted that a sentence within the specifications that clarifies the types of competitions that do not count for Zone Stirrup Cup points needed to be corrected to remove the reference to competition rating (as opposed to division rating):

D. If a Regional I or II competition offers any Hunter ~~Premier-AA~~ or National A or Jumper Level 3 and above rated sections, where tracked by USHJA standing, then the competition will not count toward USHJA Stirrup Cup points.

The committee agreed to amend the language on the floor to remove the incorrect references to competition ratings.

At the conclusion of discussion, the Executive Committee members present voted to unanimously approve the 2019 Zone Stirrup Cup Specifications, as amended on the floor.

VIII. 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 6:50 p.m. EDT.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Larry Langer, Secretary