USHJA JWG Emerging Jumper Rider Task Force Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 5, 2019 – 4:00pm ET/1:00pm PT via Teleconference

**Emerging Jumper Rider Task Force Members Participating:** Larry Langer (Chair), Jeff Campf, Diane Carney, David Distler, Marnye Langer, Sandra Ruiz (6)

**Emerging Jumper Rider Task Force Members Not Participating:** Matt Cyphert, Kim Land (2)

**Also Present:** Jennifer Osterman (USHJA Assistant Managing Director of Sport Programs), DiAnn Langer, Charlotte Skinner-Robson, Morgan Thibodeaux (USHJA Sport Program Coordinator), Marianne Kutner (USHJA Counsel) (5)

I. **Welcome and Roll Call**
   Mr. Langer welcomed the committee; Ms. Osterman performed the roll call with six (6) members presents a quorum was met.

II. **Approval of meeting minutes from July 29, 2019.**
    Ms. Osterman requested that the minutes from July 29 be tabled for revisions, and the Task Force agreed.

III. **Tabled Host Locations for 2020/2021 Zone Jumper Team and Platinum Jumper Championship**
    Ms. Osterman began the discussion for the tabled host location for the Zones 5 and 6 Jumper Team and Platinum Jumper Championships by explaining that after discussions between Ms. Thibodeaux, Ms. Mary Babick, and Ms. Kutner that there was no conflict of interest during the committee vote for their championship host recommendation.

    Ms. DiAnn Langer spoke about the Zones 5 and 6 championships that just concluded at HITS Balmoral. She found that the membership did not have interest in the competing at this location, and as a result the participation for the Zone Jumper Team Championships in these zones have not grown. There were not enough riders to hold a 1.20/1.25m or 1.30/1.35m championships, and the few riders who did apply competed as individuals. Ms. DiAnn Langer strongly recommends that we should not allow a section of the championships to only individuals again, as the purpose of the program is to involve teams. The Platinum Jumper Championships improved the numbers of the championship with nine competitive riders. She mentioned that show management at Balmoral has always been very
Ms. Carney discussed that the Great Lakes Equestrian Festival application is significant, the facility is high quality, and the membership participation at this location is also substantial. She noted that there were 790 Zone 5 horses and 60 Zone 6 horses competing. She also mentioned the these applied dates are in conflict with what the Task Force voted on for Zones 1 and 2 on the previous call. Ms. Carney spoke with the competition manager at Great Lakes, and they are willing to change dates from July 29-August 2 to the week of July 15-19. Ms. Osterman explained that she also reached out the HITS competition manager regarding the date conflict. HITS has agreed with written confirmation to change their weeks for Zones 1 and 2 in Saugerties from July 29-August 2 to July 22-26. Ms. DiAnn Langer brought up that this date is currently what Zones 7 and 8 location had applied for at HIPICO Santa Fe, but the competition manager wishes to change their date to August 5-9. Ms. Osterman mentioned that there is no written confirmation from the competition manager for Zones 7 and 8, but the Task Force had voted for the amended dates of August 5-9 on their previous call. Ms. Carney questioned if that week would conflict with North American Youth Championships, but the date and location for that event has not been confirmed yet.

Ms. Ruiz questioned the date conflict with the Zones 3 and 4 championship held at Tryon. Ms. Osterman confirmed that the competition manager provided written confirmation that they can move the dates of their original application to July 15-19. Ms. Osterman offered that if the Task Force wishes to use this date for Zones 3 and 4 at Tryon, then the Zones 5 and 6 application for Great Lakes can remain from July 29-August 2, and finally the Zones 1 and 2 application for Saugerties can move to July 22-26.

Mr. Langer suggested that the Task Force vote on their recommendations for the dates that work best for our championships to send forward to the Jumper Working Group. Ms. Skinner-Robson commented that she and Ms. DiAnn Langer had a meeting with Mr. Kevin Price, USHJA Executive Director, regarding the host application process. It was made clear that the zone committees and task forces are making recommendations to send forward to the respective working groups, and that by choosing a different host application than what a zone committee approved is not going against or overriding the zones. Ms. DiAnn Langer suggested that the zone committees do not have the autonomy to select the locations they would like, but they have the responsibility to be educated and informed for the host applications. She also suggested that a jumper representative such as herself or Ms. Skinner-Robson be on those zone calls to assist them on what they are voting on. Ms. Thibodeaux explained that she had a meeting with Mr. Price, and they decided that the zone committee members be provided a check-list to ensure that they are reviewing every part of the host applications. Ms. Carney suggested that the program specifications be included in the checklist provided to the committees.

Mr. Langer also mentioned that he is concerned that majority of the zone committee members are hunter specific and are voting for the jumper championships. Ms. Skinner-Robson mentioned that this issue is being addressed by the Planning Committee.
Mr. Langer brought the conversation back to the current host applications. Ms. Osterman explained that the Task Force needs to re-vote on the Zones 1 and 2 as well as Zones 3 and 4 applications with their new dates, and vote on the Zones 5 and 6 applications. She explained that the Task Force’s recommendations for Zones 7 and 8 as well as Zones 9 and 10 will stand from their vote on their last call.

Ms. Carney made a motion to approve HITS Saugerties on July 22-26 for Zones 1 and 2, Tryon Summer 6 on July 15-19 for Zones 3 and 4, and Great Lakes Equestrian Festival V on July 29-August 2 for Zones 5 and 6 ZJTC/PJC host locations; Ms. Ruiz seconded. Mr. Langer and Ms. Marnye Langer abstained due to conflict of interest, and the motion was passed without further discussion.

IV. Tabled Host Locations for 2020 Gold Star Clinics
Ms. Langer moved on to discussing the host locations for the 2020 Gold Star Clinics. Ms. DiAnn Langer began that she and Ms. Skinner-Robson met with Mr. Price regarding the clinics and working to find costs on alternative locations. She mentioned that previously the Task Force discussed moving the East Coast clinic earlier in December to move off of the holiday week, but in further discussion we are now looking at the week of January 22-26, 2020 in Florida. She continued that the West Coast will be recommended for HITS Thermal the week before on January 15-19, 2020. And lastly the Central location has gotten a lot of assistance for the Great Southwest Equestrian Center on January 29-February 2, 2020.

Ms. Carney explained her efforts to look at alternative locations for the East clinic by moving outside of the Wellington area. She mentioned that a cost efficient method could also be to move out of the covered arena and into the outdoor arena at the Jim Brandon Equestrian Center, which would save between $1,500-1,800. By doing so, this would put the clinic at the same capacity at other locations. Ms. Carney mentioned they have looked at a private facility for $4,000, but the additional expenses including a tent, portable restrooms, shavings, etc. would increase the overall cost. She continued that there have also been efforts to reduce the cost of the VIP dinner by changing venues. With looking at all alternatives, Ms. Carney recommends that the East clinic be held in the outdoor arena at the Jim Brandon Equestrian Center on January 22-26, which she has confirmed with the facility manager that the dates are available. Ms. DiAnn Langer mentioned in her discussion with Ms. Skinner-Robson and Mr. Price that they looked into the Ocala area but feel the participation has dropped significantly and would not be beneficial to the program. She also mentioned that we would reduce the number of days for the lead clinician from four to three, which brings the cost down by $3,000 per clinic, $9,000 total. We would look at using Ms. Anne Kursinski for the West clinic, and Mr. Richard Spooner again for the East and Central clinics.

Ms. DiAnn Langer moved on to the Central location and mentioned that we will receive a $5,000 donation from the Texas Hunter Jumper Association for the clinic. She also believes we might be able to secure a few more sponsors that work with the Great Southwest facility
to offset their costs. Mr. Cyphert and Ms. Carney have worked closely with the facility regarding the clinic, and they are very interested in hosting it. Ms. Carney also mentioned the donation from Jenny Booth and the Otis Booth Foundation should be recognized at the clinics. Ms. Osterman provided the amount of the donations as $31,200 from the Otis Booth Foundation and an additional $25,000 from Jenny Booth individually, which were donated specifically for the Emerging Jumper Rider Program.

Ms. DiAnn Langer mentioned that she would also like to reach out to the Pacific Coast Horse Shows Association for a donation toward the West clinic in Thermal, CA. Ms. Marnye Langer noted that she will be meeting with the president and vice president of the Pacific Coast and is willing to assist in working toward a donation.

Ms. Skinner-Robson commented that the Jumper Working Group will not be able to look at the Gold Star Clinic recommendations without a written budget for each clinic to consider. Ms. Carney and Ms. Osterman will work together on putting together the budget before the Jumper Working Group call on Monday, August 12. Ms. Carney mentioned that we will look at using local farriers to save costs as opposed to flying one farrier to all three locations.

Ms. DiAnn Langer mentioned that she has received interest from Platinum riders this year to audit the Gold Star Clinics, and feels that this would be acceptable and if they are able to pay for their own horse and schedule a private lesson with the lead clinician after the clinic sessions. Ms. Carney agrees with this idea and thinks that it would open up the conversation regarding the Platinum Masters in 2020.

Ms. Marnye made a motion to approve the East location at the Jim Brandon Equestrian Center with the changes discussed on this call on July 22-26, 2020 as well as the Central location at Great Southwest Equestrian Center on July 29-February 2; Ms. Carney seconded and the motion was passed without further discussion.

V. Old business
   No old business was discussed.

VI. New Business
   No new business was discussed.

VII. Adjournment
   With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:58pm ET.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Osterman
USHJA Assistant Managing Director of Sport Programs

Committee actions resulting in a recommendation for program changes are subject to additional review in accordance with Board of Directors approved policy.