**USHJA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**October 7, 2019 – 6:00 p.m. ET via Teleconference**

Members Participating: Mary Babick, Katie Benson, Margie Engle, Dianne Johnson, Britt McCormick, Robin Rost Brown, Cheryl Rubenstein, Charlotte Skinner-Robson

Members Absent: John Bahret, David Distler, Joe Dotoli

Others Present: Kevin Price, Leigh Anne Claywell, Mary Hope Kramer, Marianne Kutner, Whitney Barnard

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 put the September 3, 2019 meeting minutes on the floor for discussion and vote, as well as the email vote minutes from September 9, September 13, and September 18. The motion was unanimously approved. The Executive Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes, with two abstentions noted for the September 9 and September 18 minutes.

IV. Consideration of Mileage Exemption Requests
All mileage exemption requests were placed on the floor for discussion and vote. Several conflicts of interest were noted, and the order of review was adjusted to bring the Tryon requests forward to the top of the agenda.

**Tryon Summer 3 (“Applicant Competition”) vs. NCHJA Annual (“Priority Competition”)**

Robin Rost Brown identified a conflict of interest with respect to both Tryon requests and recused herself from the meeting prior to deliberation and vote.

It was noted that this request was submitted for a perpetual mileage exemption. The Board began with a discussion of perpetual mileage exemptions, touching on the reasons for and implications of such exemptions.

The USHJA Executive Committee recommended **approval** of the Applicant’s request to conduct its 2020 competition at the Premier Hunter/Level 6 Jumper rating, but recommended **disapproval** for the perpetual exemption, based upon the following reasons:

- The committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competition is 191.90 with a mileage boundary of 250 miles.
• The committee noted that the conflict is in the Hunter division only.
• The committee noted that competitions have agreed to the mileage exemption in years past on an annual basis, and that the applicant only objects to granting the perpetual exemption.
• The committee’s opinion is that there has been no detrimental effect on the Priority Competition by granting the mileage exemption.

A motion was made and seconded to approve a one year mileage exemption request. The committee members present unanimously approved a one year mileage exemption request for Tryon Summer 3.

Tryon Spring 2 (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Aiken Charity Horse Show II and Kentucky Spring (“Priority Competitions”)

It was noted that this request was submitted for a perpetual mileage exemption.

The USHJA Executive Committee recommended approval of the Applicant’s request to conduct its 2020 competition (May 5-10, 2020) at the Premier Hunter Division rating and Level 6 Jumper rating, with the requested scheduling restrictions, but recommended disapproval of the perpetual mileage exemption request, based upon the following reasons:

• The Committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competitions is 240.34 for Kentucky Spring and 122.96 for the Aiken Charity, with a mileage boundary of 250 miles for both.
• The Committee noted from the materials provided that both Priority Competitions would grant the Applicant’s request for a mileage exemption for their 2020 competition, but not for the perpetual exemption.
• The Committee noted from the materials provided that the Kentucky Spring would grant permission to the Applicant if the Applicant Competition ran at the National Hunter Division rating and Level 4 Jumper rating in 2020 with the following restrictions:
  • No hunter classes with more than $15,000 in prize money
  • No jumper classes with more than $30,000 in prize money
  • No FEI sanctioned classes

A motion was made and seconded to approve a one year mileage exemption request with the restrictions requested by Kentucky Spring (no hunter classes with more than $15,000 in prize money, no jumper classes with more than $30,000 in prize money, and no FEI sanctioned classes). The committee members present unanimously approved a one year mileage exemption request, with the restrictions requested by Kentucky Spring, for Tryon Spring 2.

Ms. Rost Brown returned to the call.

The Ridge at Wellington Hunter Derby Day (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Equestrian Sport Productions Spring I (“Priority Competition”)
No conflicts of interest were identified on the part of any Executive Committee members in attendance with respect to this request.

The USHJA Executive Committee recommended approval of the Applicant’s request to conduct its 2020 competition (April 4, 2020) as a Stand-Alone International Hunter Derby, based upon the following reasons:

- The committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competitions is 1.66 miles with a mileage boundary of 250 miles.
- The committee noted that the Priority Competition is not approved to hold an International Hunter Derby during this timeframe.
- The committee feels that there is a very high density of competitors in the area at this time of year, which will sufficiently support both competitions.
- The committee feels that the Applicant Competition offers an additional opportunity for hunter riders that would otherwise not be available.

The committee members present unanimously approved the mileage exemption request for The Ridge at Wellington Hunter Derby Day.

Longines Masters of New York (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Princeton Show Jumping Spring Classic II (“Priority Competition”)

Katie Benson identified a conflict of interest with respect to this request and recused herself from the meeting prior to deliberation and vote.

The USHJA Executive Committee recommended approval of the Applicant’s request to conduct its 2020 competition (April 22-26, 2020) Jumper Level 6 rating based upon the following reasons:

- The Committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competition is 60.77 miles within a mileage boundary of 125 miles.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Priority Competition provided permission to the Applicant in 2019, did not submit a response within the requisite period of time in 2019, and declined to grant permission for 2020.
- The committee noted from the horse numbers provided, that it appears the Applicant had no negative effect on the Priority Competition.
- The committee’s opinion is that the Applicant competition meets the needs of a different set of constituents and competitors than does the Priority Competition and as a result, does not have a negative impact on the Priority Competition.
- The committee feels the Applicant Competition provides a unique event with international scope and feels the resulting exposure to exhibitors and spectators alike is good for the sport.

The committee members present unanimously approved the mileage exemption request for Longines Masters of New York.
Ms. Benson returned to the call.

**Maryland Summer Classic (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Hollyhurst Farm and Devon (“Priority Competitions”)**

It was noted that this request was submitted for a perpetual mileage exemption. No conflicts of interest were identified on the part of any Executive Committee members in attendance with respect to this request.

The USHJA Executive Committee recommended **approval** of the Applicant’s request to conduct its 2020 competition (May 22-24, 2020) at the National Hunter and Level 1 Jumper ratings based upon the following reasons:

- The committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competitions is 84.92 miles (Devon) and 55.66 miles (Hollyhurst Farm), with a mileage boundary of 125 miles and 90 miles respectively.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Priority Competition (Devon) confirmed Perpetual Permission to the Applicant.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Priority Competition (Hollyhurst Farm) has historically provided the Applicant with permission, and objected to the request for a perpetual exemption, but would grant permission for 2020.
- The committee feels that, given the responses from the Priority Competitions, permission should be granted for 2020 ONLY, and that a perpetual exemption is not in the best interest of the sport at this time.

A motion was made and seconded to **approve a one year mileage exemption request.** The committee members present unanimously **approved a one year mileage exemption request for Maryland Summer Classic.**

**Loudon Benefit (“Applicant Competition”) vs. PJA Jumper Classics and Hollyhurst Farm (“Priority Competitions”)**

It was noted that this request was submitted for a perpetual mileage exemption. No conflicts of interest were identified on the part of any Executive Committee members in attendance with respect to this request.

The USHJA Executive Committee recommended **approval** of the Applicant’s request to conduct its 2020 competition (June 10-14) at the Premier Hunter/Level 4 Jumper ratings, based upon the following reasons:

- The committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competitions is 68.56 miles (PJA Jumper Classics) with a Jumper mileage boundary of 125 miles, and 87.51 miles (Hollyhurst Farm) with a Hunter mileage boundary of 90 miles.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Priority Competition
(Hollyhurst Farm) did not submit a response in the required time frame to the Applicant’s request for mileage exemption, however they did note that the response received indicated the Priority Competition would grant permission for 2020 only.

- The committee’s opinion is that given the history of the competitions, the opportunities the Applicant Competition presents for competitors, and the relatively minor impact on the Priority competitions, permission should be granted for the 2020 competition year only, but that a perpetual exemption is not warranted at this time.

A motion was made and seconded to approve a one year mileage exemption request. The committee members present unanimously approved a one year mileage exemption request for Loudon Benefit.

Vermont Summer Celebration (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Northampton Hunter and Jumper (“Priority Competition”)

No conflicts of interest were identified on the part of any Executive Committee members in attendance with respect to this request.

The USHJA Executive Committee recommended approval of the Applicant’s request to conduct its 2020 competition (August 5-9) at the Premier Hunter/Level 4 Jumper ratings, based upon the following reasons:

- The committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competitions is 64.67 miles with a mileage boundary of 125 miles.
- The committee noted that the Priority Competition did not submit their response within the time required, however their response was to grant permission to the Applicant Competition.
- The committee also noted that the competitions have co-existed for many years, and that the Priority Competition has granted permission in the past.
- The committee feels that the Applicant Competition offers an additional opportunities for riders in the area at that time of year.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the mileage exemption request. The committee members present unanimously approved the mileage exemption request for Vermont Summer Celebration.

Skidmore College Saratoga Spring III (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Old Salem Farm May II (“Priority Competition”)

Mr. McCormick identified a conflict of interest with respect to this request and recused himself from the meeting prior to deliberation and vote.

The USHJA Executive Committee recommended approval of the Applicant’s request to conduct its 2020 competition (May 14-17) at the National Hunter and Level 2 Jumper ratings, based upon the following reasons:

- The committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority
Competition is 113.58 with a mileage boundary of 125 miles.

- The committee noted that the decrease in the 2019 number of horses for the Priority Competition was due primarily to an outbreak of strangles at the facility.
- The committee’s opinion is that, if approved, a different constituency of competitors would attend the Applicant versus the Priority Competition. Further, the Applicant Competition could meet the needs of the competitors in the New England area who cannot, or otherwise would not, attend the Priority Competition, especially given the fact that the Priority Competition has been running at or near maximum capacity for several years and has been forced to turn entries away in the past due to space limitations.
- The committee’s opinion is that the Applicant Competition will help alleviate overcrowding that exists at the Priority Competition and thus recommends approval of this request.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the mileage exemption request. The committee members present unanimously approved the mileage exemption request for Skidmore College Saratoga Spring III.

Mr. McCormick returned to the call.

World Equestrian Center Summer I (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Chagrin Hunter Jumper Classic and Showplace Summertime II (“Priority Competitions”)

World Equestrian Center Summer II (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Brave Horse IV and Showplace Summertime III (“Priority Competitions”)

No conflicts of interest were identified on the part of any Executive Committee members in attendance with respect to these requests.

The USHJA Executive Committee recommended disapproval of the Applicant’s request to conduct its 2020 competitions (July 8-12 and July 15-19) at the National Hunter/Level 3 Jumper and Regional 1 Hunter/Level 4 Jumper ratings, respectively, based upon the following reasons:

- The committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competitions is 188.27 miles (Chagrin Hunter Jumper Classic), 76.14 miles (Brave Horse IV) and 241.83 miles (Showplace Summertime II & III) with a mileage boundary of 250 miles.
- The committee noted from the provided materials that the Priority Competition (Showplace) granted permission to the Applicant to run in 2019.
- The committee’s opinion is that adding another event within the mileage of an existing event at the same or similar ratings almost always reduces the number of competitors attending the Priority Competition(s), thus reducing the number of competitors in specific classes and sections, and diluting the level of competition.
- The committee’s opinion (which is supported by the Federation-provided horse entry number information for all competitions involved in this request) is that there are likely not sufficient competitors in this geographic area at this time of year to adequately support and sustain a new competition entering into the environment at the
Applicant’s requested ratings.

- The committee noted from the provided materials that the Applicant Competition (WEC Summer I) can run without conflict at Regional II Hunter/Jumper Level 3 ratings and feels this Hunter and Jumper rating would more correctly meet the Applicant’s documented objective of providing competitive opportunities to its targeted middle market constituency.

- The committee also noted from the provided materials that the Applicant Competition (WEC Summer II) can run without conflict at Regional II Hunter/Level 3 Jumper ratings. As a result, the committee recommends the Applicant pursue those options.

A motion was made and seconded to disapprove the mileage exemption request. The committee members present unanimously disapproved the mileage exemption request for WEC Summer I. The committee members present then unanimously disapproved the mileage exemption request for WEC Summer II.

Whitney Barnard joined the call.

V. Consideration of Trainer Certification Program Requests

A motion was made by and seconded to place all Trainer Certification Program applications on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Executive Committee members reviewed the materials provided in the meeting packet. There was a brief discussion about accepting a letter of recommendation from an individual that was not a current member of USHJA. It was noted that this had been allowed on a case-by-case basis in the past, and consensus was that it would be acceptable in this instance. Whitney Barnard pointed out that one applicant had not yet completed concussion training, another had not yet submitted complete insurance paperwork, and another was pending official verification of attendance for a September clinic. Ms. Barnard suggested that all could be approved with the provision that any outstanding items must be completed before issuance of certifications.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Trainer Certification Program applicants, including acceptance of the third letter of reference by a non-member, with the provision that any outstanding items would be completed by the applicants before issuance of certifications. The Executive Committee members unanimously approved the Trainer Certification Program applicants, with one abstention noted.

VII. Consideration of Awards Committee Requests

A motion was made and seconded to place the Awards Committee requests on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

- 2019 Nomination Based Award Recommendations
  The Executive Committee members reviewed the materials provided in the meeting packet. There was a brief discussion about the fact that one nominee had not completed Safe Sport training, but consensus was that this would not preclude them from consideration, taking into account their inactive Life member status as well as personal health concerns. It was noted that this would be verified with USEF staff. Conversation next centered on the William J. Moroney Visionary Award. Ms. Babick noted that there had been discussion about a way to honor IHSA founder Bob Cacchione, who recently retired from the IHSA,
and she suggested adding his name to the slate of nominees. Ms. Rubenstein noted that the specs did not preclude allowing two individuals to receive the award in the same year.

2019 USEF Nomination Based Awards Recommendations
- Amateur Sportmanship Award: Page Tredennick
- Jane Marshall Dillon Award: Sunny Stevens and Corky Shaha
- Owners Legacy Award: Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Oare
- Lifetime Achievement: Margaret “Sissie” Anderton and Brian Flynn
- Youth Sportsman’s Award: Ella Doerr
- Youth Leadership Award: Ian McFarlin
- William J. Moroney Visionary Award: Larry Langer and Bob Cacchione

A motion was made and seconded to amend the list of recommended candidates for the nomination-based awards to include Bob Cacchione as a nominee for the William J. Moroney Visionary Award. The Executive Committee members unanimously approved the adding Bob Cacchione as a nominee for the William J. Moroney Visionary Award.

The Executive Committee then voted unanimously to approve the list of recommended candidates for the nomination-based awards, as amended to include Bob Cacchione as a nominee for the William J. Moroney Visionary Award.

- 2019 Pegasus Awards Junior Equestrian of the Year
  The Executive Committee members reviewed the materials provided in the meeting packet. Ms. Rubenstein noted that the Awards Committee did not initially make a nomination for Junior Equestrian of the Year, but two individuals were later brought forward for consideration.

  A motion was made and seconded to approve Julia Stone as the candidate for the 2019 Pegasus Awards Junior Equestrian of the Year. The Executive Committee members unanimously approved Julia Stone as the candidate for the 2019 Pegasus Awards Junior Equestrian of the Year.

VIII. Old Business
None

IX. New Business
None

X. Adjournment
There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn, and the meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m. EST.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Dianne Johnson, Secretary