USHJA Young Jumper Task Force Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2020 – 3:30 pm ET via Teleconference

Committee Members Participating: Jason Mc Ardle (Chair), Kirsten Coe, Joe Fargis, Susan Hutchison, Brooke Kemper, Lisa Lourie, Mandy Porter, Andrew Ramsay (8)

Committee Members Not Present: Rachel Bates, Willie Tynan (2)

Also Present: Jennifer Osterman (USHJA Assistant Managing Director of Sport Programs), Chris Mitchell (USHJA Manager of Jumper Programs), DiAnn Langer (USHJA Show Jumping Technical Advisor), Sally Ike (USHJA Jumper Working Group Member) (4)

I. Welcome and Roll Call
Mr. Mc Ardle called the meeting to order and Ms. Osterman performed the roll call; with eight (8) members present, a quorum was met.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 16, 2020.
Ms. Kemper made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 16, 2020; Ms. Lourie seconded, the motion was passed unanimously.

III. Discussion of Young Jumper Course Education and Potential RCPs
Mr. Mc Ardle began by reviewing the survey feedback from the Task Force members regarding solutions to Young Jumper courses. A couple of main ideas were to institute competing hors concours, running Young Jumper classes separate from open classes, and spreading out or graduating the heights from the courses on the first day to the final day of competition.

Ms. Ike noted that she agrees with the need for courses to be age appropriate and address course designer education. She serves as the non-voting advisor for USHJA Officials Education Committee and stated that they are taking initiative on improving course designer education as a whole. Young Jumper courses are included on the curriculum, and the Task Force could provide recommendations to the Officials Education Committee.

There was further discussion about the professional riders choosing the best option for their horse at that time; however, there had been previous efforts to create incentives to enter the young horse classes. A couple Task Force members mentioned they had positive outcomes when communicating with course designers during course walks that they did not feel the courses were set appropriately for that age group. There was further discussion about the issue with continuity of correct course design based on the location and rating of the competition, the arena which
young horse classes are held, and the individual course designer. It was suggested in the event that a course designer is not willing to adjust the course that one could submit negative course designer feedback to the steward and/or competition manager.

The conversation emphasized the need for improved course designer education. Ms. Osterman located materials from 2018 that the Young Jumper Task Force had put together covering JP116 course guidelines and sent them out for review. It was noted that the materials will need to be updated for rules that have been put into effect since the document was created. The Task Force shifted to discuss potential rule change proposals to put forward to improve the course guidelines.

The Task Force was in agreement that if the Young Jumper classes were to be held concurrently with an open jumper class at the same height, then the courses must adhere to the specifications for young horse courses of the age group with which it is combined. JP116 currently provides information about combining two or more age groups, and the rule change proposal can mirror that language about combing young horse and open classes.

Ms. Lourie made a motion to propose a rule change to the JP116 which includes language that Young Horse are combined with Open then they comply with the age appropriate standard for the young horse class; Mr. Fargis seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Ms. Langer discussed the option for young horses to compete hors concours at a level lower than their age group, but there would not be an option for the 5-year olds to drop down. She recommended including a proposal that provides a definitive description of the 5-year old courses, using language from JP122.4 that describes Grand Prix standards. Ms. Kemper suggested that 5-year old horses may drop down to open 1.00m and compete hors concours with entry fees equal to that of their age group, but those horses may only do so in one class per day and cannot return to their specific age group class on the same day.

The timeline for rule change proposals were confirmed that general (GR) rules are due June 1, and discipline (JP) rules are due September 1. However, these rule change proposals will be considered for the 2022 competition year, but extraordinary rules can be put forward at any time.

IV. Old Business
No old business was discussed.

V. New Business
No new business was discussed.

VI. Adjornment
Mr. Fargis made a motion to adjourn; Ms. Kemper seconded. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:47 PM Eastern.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Osterman, USHJA Assistant Managing Director of Sport Programs

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