



USHJA Board of Directors Special Meeting

Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2018 – 6:30 p.m. EDT

Board Members Present: Mary Babick, John Bahret, Debbie Bass, Katie Benson, Tom Brennan, Shelley Campf, Diane Carney, Richard Cram, David Distler, Joe Dotoli, Margie Engle, Dianne Johnson, Larry Langer, Britt McCormick, Tobey McWilliams, Betty Oare, Cheryl Rubenstein, Charlotte Skinner-Robson, Jimmy Torano, Sissy Wickes

Board Members Not Present: Anne Kursinski

Others Present: Bill Moroney, USEF CEO

Staff Present: Kevin Price, Marianne Kutner, Leslie Mangan

I. Welcome

Mary Babick welcomed the Board and the meeting commenced at 6:30 p.m. EDT.

II. Roll Call

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

III. Adoption of Agenda

Larry Langer made a motion to adopt the agenda. John Bahret seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

VI. Consideration of Rule Change Proposal – Special Competition

Mr. Langer made a motion to place the Special Competition Rule Change Proposal on the floor for discussion and vote. Charlotte Skinner-Robson seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mary Babick recognized Bill Moroney and thanked him for joining the meeting to discuss the amended (Draft #3) of the *Special Competition Application Guidelines* document that accompanies Rule Change Proposal #339-17 (GR309) which is still in its Draft #2 version. Mr. Moroney addressed each section of the Guidelines document and fielded questions from the Board.

The point was raised that by allowing for standalone Hunter Derbies to qualify for a sub-type of existing license (which is proposed under the referred RCP #250-17 to HJ201) it moves those types of events away from the need to qualify as a Special Competition. The benefit for doing so would include the ability for existing date holders within the mileage boundary to be notified and able to provide comment about standalone Hunter Derby competitions potentially entering the environment since these events would have to undergo the mileage exemption process if a mileage conflict existed. Under the current Special Competition application process, this notification and comment process is not undertaken since Special Competitions are not held to the mileage rules.

Conversation ensued regarding the fact that RCP #250-17 (HJ201) was going to be amended by the National Hunter Committee to change the competition standard and mileage requirements to allow for the possibility of hosting a standalone National Hunter Derby and/or Pony Hunter Derby before being presented to the USEF Board of Directors for final action on June 11 & 12, 2018. The current draft of the RCP mandates that all standalone derby events, regardless of derby class offerings, be held to the Premier competition rating standard and mileage requirements. Concern was raised about how quickly a new draft could be issued and whether or not there would be adequate time for USHJA to review and provide comment on it. The group agreed that if a new draft was issued in time, the Board would attempt to reconvene in a timely fashion in order to take action and provide any necessary comments.

At the conclusion of discussion, most members communicated that they didn't feel either rule change proposal was ready for presentation to the USEF Board, but they didn't want to miss the opportunity to provide USHJA's position and comment. Specifically, the Board members felt that the internal review process outlined within the Guidelines document is too narrow and unclear, and there is no provision that guarantees Recognized Affiliate review of applicable Special Competition applications, despite the fact that most non-FEI titled events that apply for Special Competition status have a direct impact on the Affiliate environment. The Board members expressed frustration and disappointment that more time was not provided, and that the Recognized Affiliates have not been included in the conversation and more engaged in the overall effort. They feel strongly that the rule change proposals should be withdrawn at this time and the Federation should fully engage all Recognized Affiliates in the discussion and analysis of this topic so that a fully formulated rule change proposal can be supported through next year's rule change cycle.

Britt McCormick made a motion to recommend approval of RCP #339-17 (GR309) Draft #2 and the companion Special Competition Application Guidelines – Draft #3. Rick Cram seconded, and the motion was disapproved by majority vote with two abstentions recorded.

The following comment was issued to the Federation with the USHJA's recommendation for disapproval of RCP #339-17 (GR309):

USHJA is not in favor of the amended *Special Competition Application Guidelines*. The initial application review process is too narrow and unclear, and there is no provision that guarantees Recognized Affiliate review of Special Competition applications, despite the fact that most Special Competitions have a direct impact on the Affiliate environment. This amended draft of the Application Guidelines document was not published until May 1, 2018, and was not made available by the Federation for Affiliate review until May 18, 2018, yet review and action on the part of each Affiliate is required by May 28, 2018. USHJA feels strongly that this window of time is not adequate to thoroughly analyze this important matter and consider all possible impacts the proposed Guidelines might have on the competition environment as a result of amending the Special Competition criteria. As it communicated in its April 2, 2018 recommendation, USHJA strongly recommends disapproving/withdrawing this RCP and the related Application Guidelines document at this time and fully engage all the affiliates in discussion and careful analysis of this topic prior to submitting a new RCP in the next rule change cycle.

X. Old Business
None

XI. New Business
None

VIII. Adjourn
There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn, and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Langer, Secretary