

USHJA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Members Participating: Mary Babick, John Bahret, Shelley Campf, David Distler, Margie Engle, Dianne Johnson, Anne Kursinski, Larry Langer, Britt McCormick, Cheryl Rubenstein, Charlotte Skinner-Robson

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Katlynn Sacco (USEF), Kevin Price, Leslie Mangan

I. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted and a quorum was met.

II. Adoption of Amended Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda which was amended to remove two items under Zone and Sport Programs Requests from consideration. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the July 2, 2018 Executive Committee meeting, as presented. The motion was approved by majority vote with two members abstaining due to their absence from that meeting.

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.

Stepping Stone Farm (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Gardnertown Farms April (“Priority Competition”)

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

The committee considered the following in its review:

- The committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competition is 30.79 miles with a mileage boundary of 40 miles.
- The committee noted that the mileage conflict is for the Hunter rating only; there is no Jumper rating conflict.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Priority Competition did not submit a response to the Federation.

- The committee's opinion is that absent receipt of any documented objection to the Applicant's request, there is no reasonable reason why the Applicant's request for mileage exemption would not be granted.

*At the conclusion of discussion, the USHJA Executive Committee voted unanimously to recommend **approval** of the Applicant's request to conduct its 2019 competition (April 28, 2019) at the Local Hunter/Jumper rating.*

Old Salem Farm May I ("Applicant Competition") vs. Princeton Show Jumping May 2 & The Ridge at Riverview ("Priority Competitions")

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

The committee considered the following in its review:

- The committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competitions is 85.90 miles (Princeton Show Jumping May 2) and 88.55 miles (The Ridge at Riverview) with a mileage boundary of 125 and 90 miles respectively.
- The committee noted from the provided materials that the Applicant Competition, despite running as a mileage exemption competition for many years, is an established competition within the environment and surrounding competitions within the mileage have successfully co-existed with the Applicant for many years.
- The committee's opinion is that the Applicant competition does not cause a negative effect on either of the Priority competitions, and in fact, offers alternative competitive opportunities to exhibitors in this geographic area at this time of year.
- The committee's opinion is that there are very limited offerings of competitions at the Applicant's requested rating in this geographic area, and that denying this request might disadvantage exhibitors from this area seeking to compete at this rating.

*At the conclusion of discussion, the USHJA Executive Committee voted unanimously to recommend **approval** of the Applicant's request to conduct its 2019 competition (May 7-12, 2019) at the Premier Hunter and Level 5 Jumper ratings.*

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

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

The committee considered the following in its review:

- 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 last year, and did not submit a response within the requisite period of time for this request.

- The committee noted from the horse numbers provided, that it appears the Applicant, in its first year running in 2018, 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.

*At the conclusion of discussion, the USHJA Executive Committee voted unanimously to recommend **approval** of the Applicant's request to conduct its 2019 competition (April 24-28) Jumper Level 6 rating.*

Princeton Show Jumping Spring Classic ("Applicant Competition") vs. Snowbird & Snowbird April I ("Priority Competitions")

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

The committee considered the following in its review:

- The committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competitions is 51.81 miles (Snowbird) and 25.19 miles (Snowbird April I), with a mileage boundary of 90 miles and 50 miles respectively.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the mileage conflict is with the Hunter rating only; no conflict exists with the Applicant's requested Jumper rating.
- The committee's opinion is that there are very limited offerings of competitions at the Applicant's requested rating in this geographic area, and that denying this request might disadvantage exhibitors from this area seeking to compete at this rating.
- The committee's opinion is that by limiting the Applicant's offerings of any C-rated hunter sections and any national qualifying equitation classes to only those days the two Priority Competitions are not running will lessen the likelihood of drawing competitors away from the Priority Competitions.

*At the conclusion of discussion, the USHJA Executive Committee voted unanimously to recommend **approval** of the Applicant's request to conduct its 2018 competition (April 18-22, 2018) at the Premier Hunter and Jumper Level 4 ratings **with the stipulation that the Applicant does not conduct any "C"-rated Hunter sections (Children's Hunter and Adult Amateur Hunter) or any open equitation classes on the same days on which the Priority Competitions are held (Saturday, April 20).***

Larry Langer and David Distler both identified a conflict of interest with respect to the next three exemption requests, recused themselves, and left the meeting prior to discussion and vote.

Tryon Spring 5 ("Applicant Competition") vs. Aiken Spring Classic Masters ("Priority Competition")

The committee considered the following in its review:

- The committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competition is 120.94 miles with a mileage boundary of 250 miles.
- The committee's opinion is that there is no shortage of competitive opportunities in this geographic area and at this time of year and the committee questions whether the environment can adequately support another competition at the Applicant's requested upgraded ratings.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Applicant Competition ran initially in 2017 at the Regional I Hunter and Level 3 Jumper ratings, but cancelled in 2018. The committee's opinion is there is no evidence presented to support that a rating upgrade is warranted at this point in time and feels that granting this request will have a negative impact on the Priority Competition.
- The committee noted from the provided materials that the Applicant Competitions can run without conflict at a Regional I Hunter and Jumper Level 3 rating, as they did in 2017, and recommends the Applicant pursue that option.

*At the conclusion of discussion, the USHJA Executive Committee voted unanimously to recommend **disapproval** of the Applicant's request to conduct its 2019 competition (April 17-21, 2019) at the upgraded Premier Hunter and Level 6 Jumper ratings.*

Tryon Welcome 4 ("Applicant Competition") vs. Aiken Spring Classic Finale & Lexington Spring Premier ("Priority Competition")

The committee considered the following in its review:

- The committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competitions is 120.94 miles (Aiken Spring Classic) and 226.46 miles (Lexington Spring Premier) with a mileage boundary of 250 miles.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Applicant Competition ran initially in 2017 at the Regional I Hunter and Level 3 Jumper ratings, but cancelled in 2018. The committee's opinion is there is no evidence presented to support that a rating upgrade is warranted at this this point in time and feels that granting this request will have a negative impact on the Priority Competitions.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Priority Competition (Lexington Spring Premier) granted permission to the Applicant's request, but the Priority Competition (Aiken Spring Classic Finale) denied the Applicant's request.
- The committee's opinion is that there is no shortage of competitive opportunities in this geographic area and at this time of year and the committee questions whether the environment can adequately support another competition at the Applicant's requested upgraded ratings. Despite the permission granted by one of the two Priority Competitions, the committee is not in favor of granting this mileage exemption request.
- The committee noted from the provided materials that the Applicant Competitions can run without conflict at a Regional I Hunter and Jumper Level 3 rating, as they have done in the past, and recommends the Applicant pursue that option.

*At the conclusion of discussion, the USHJA Executive Committee voted unanimously to recommend **disapproval** of the Applicant's request to conduct its 2019 competition (April 24-28, 2019) at the upgraded Premier Hunter and Level 6 Jumper ratings.*

Tryon Spring 2 (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Aiken Spring Charity II & Kentucky Spring (“Priority Competition”)

The committee considered the following in its review:

- The Committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competitions is 239.97 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 the Aiken Charity Horse Show granted the Applicant’s request for a mileage exemption.
- The Committee’s opinion is that the Applicant Competition and the Priority Competitions involved are already successfully serving the needs of members of this geographic area at their current hunter ratings and jumper levels. Approving the Applicant’s request for an upgrade in its ratings would negatively impact the Priority Competitions.
- The Committee noted from the materials provided that the Kentucky National would grant permission to the Applicant if the Applicant Competition ran at the National Hunter Division rating and Level 4 Jumper rating in 2019 with the following restrictions:
 - No hunter classes with more than \$10,000 in prize money
 - No jumper classes with more than \$25,000 in prize money
 - No FEI sanctioned classes
- The Committee agrees with the contingent approval provided by the Kentucky National for 2019 and recommends the Applicant pursue that avenue.

*At the conclusion of discussion, the USHJA Executive Committee voted unanimously to recommend **disapproval of the Applicant’s request to conduct its 2019 competition (May 7-12, 2019) at the upgraded Premier (AA) Hunter Division rating and Level 6 Jumper rating. The Committee would, however, recommend approval for the Applicant to conduct its 2018 competition at the National (A) Hunter Division rating and Level 4 Jumper rating with the stipulations mentioned above.***

Larry Langer and David Distler rejoined the meeting.

VI. Consideration of Proposed Rule Clarifications

Ms. Skinner-Robson made a motion to place the proposed rule clarifications on the floor for discussion and vote. Cheryl Rubenstein seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The committee reviewed three proposed rule clarifications that, if approved, will clarify the requirements under the rules in the Hunter, Jumper and Equitation chapters concerning age verification for horses. One question was raised regarding why there are currently age verification rules in the Equitation chapter. The clarification language will be inserted into the following rules:

- EQ103.3
- HU104.4
- JP116.1

Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee unanimously approved the proposed rule clarifications to the age verification language within the HU, EQ and JP chapters of the Rule Book.

VII. Consideration of Zone & Sport Program Requests

A motion was made and seconded to place all Zone & Sport Program requests on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

- **2019 Zone HOTY Specifications**

The committee reviewed the proposed specifications, which contained no changes other than to the program year.

Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee unanimously approved the proposed rule clarifications to the age verification language to EQ103.3, HU104.4 and JP116.1 within the Rule Book.

- **2019 Green Hunter Challenge Specifications**

The committee reviewed the proposed specifications, which contained no changes other than to the program year.

Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee unanimously approved the 2019 Green Hunter Challenge Specifications, as presented.

- **2019 Pony Hunter Derby Championship Specifications**

The Committee reviewed the proposed specifications for the 2019 Pony Hunter Derby Championship. No questions were asked.

Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee approved the 2019 USHJA Pony Hunter Derby Championship Specifications, as presented.

- **2019 WCHR Program Specifications**

The committee reviewed the proposed specifications, which contained no changes other than to the program year

Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee approved the 2019 WCHR Program Specifications, as presented.

- **2019 WCHR Member Event Selections**

The committee reviewed the listing of the proposed listing of WCHR member event competitions selected for the 2019 year as approved by both the WCHR Task Force and the Hunter Working Group. Discussion ensued regarding the contingencies placed on certain events in the Northeast region and the fact that no WCHR program standards exist for footing, nor is there a mechanism in place for assessing whether or not standards are met. However, the committee does support the recommendation provided by the Hunter Working Group calling for a letter to be sent on behalf of the WCHR Task Force to the managers of two specific competitions in the Southwest Region requesting improvements. One comment was made in opposition of the selection of a Canadian competition as a member event in the Northwest Region. The point was raised that Canadian competitions operate under different rules than those held in the U.S. and the differing standards could compromise fairness. Finally, the Executive Committee feels no competitions with pending mileage exemption requests should be awarded a WCHR event until such time as the mileage exemption is granted by USEF.

At the conclusion of discussion, the Executive Committee approved the list of proposed 2019 WCHR Member Events with the stipulation that the contingencies listed for the two Northeast Region competitions be removed and that no pending mileage exemption competitions be granted permission to host a WCHR event. In such cases, WCHR member event status can be provided only upon notification from USEF that the mileage exemption has been granted. This motion was approved by majority vote with four abstentions recorded.

- **2019 Zone 8 Request for Waiver – 2019 Children’s/Adult Amateur Hunter Championships**

The committee reviewed a request submitted by Zone 8 requesting an exemption to host requirements for the Children’s/Adult Amateur Hunter Championships. Zone 8 does not currently meet the minimum eligibility requirements that would allow the zone to host its own championship. After consideration of the request, which included review of the participation numbers from the combined Zones 7 & 8 championships in 2018, the committee felt that the Children’s/Adult Hunter Championship program is still in its infancy and felt granting Zone 8’s request would further dilute competition and likely result in a negative impact for the championships.

At the conclusion of discussion, the Executive Committee unanimously disapproved Zone 8’s request for exemption to the host eligibility criteria listed within the Children’s/Adult Amateur Hunter Championships specifications.

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 6:55 p.m. EDT.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Larry Langer, Secretary