USHJA Children’s Adult Hunter Task Force Meeting Minutes

October 28, 2019, 3:30 p.m. ET via Teleconference

Task Force Members Present: Tobey McWilliams (Chair), Otis Brown (Vice Chair), Jamie Gibson, Monica Hunt, Kat Demas Mulkey, Sharon Stewart-Wells (6)

Task Force Members Not Present: Hunter Messineo, Simone Starnes (2)

Others Present: Jennifer Osterman (USHJA Assistant Managing Director of Sport Programs) (1)

I. Roll Call
Ms. McWilliams called the meeting to order and Ms. Osterman called roll. With six (6) members present a quorum was met.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 30, 2019
Ms. Stewart-Wells made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from September 30, 2019; Ms. Demas Mulkey seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.

III. Discussion of the 2021 Championships Specifications and Proposal
Ms. Osterman explained to the Task Force that the proposal and final draft of the specifications will need to be approved at the Task Force level and submitted to the Hunter Working Group by November 18.

Ms. McWilliams began with the latest 2021 championship specifications rough draft and discussing if we would need to change the title of the event to reflect the additions of Children’s Ponies and Low Child/Adult sections. She feels that the title should change if there is an addition of the Lows. The Task Force discussed whether they want to add both the Ponies and the Lows, or just one section.

Mr. Brown talked with a couple of competition managers regarding the event and generally the managers want the class to be worthwhile so they can benefit from adding the event. He feels that we should give an opportunity for as many people to be able to compete as possible, so adding both sections could provide more opportunity. The Task Force is making efforts to make the championships easier for competition managers and competitors by removing restrictions and the jog. There are also changes to the course requirements so that course changes will go quicker, so adding the sections wouldn’t be hard on time. The Task Force is in agreement to add both the Children’s Ponies and Low Child/Adult Hunter sections.
The Task Force moved through the specifications draft by section. The following revisions were discussed.

A. Section II. Application: The Low Child/Adults currently only accumulate points for USHJA Stirrup Cup standings at Regional I and II shows, which does not account for 2’6” classes at National and Premiere shows. Therefore, the Lows wouldn’t have point criteria and only need to have participated at 2’6” at USEF licensed competition and have applied by the application deadline.

B. Section III. Qualifying Procedures: the Low Child/Adult section height restrictions will be not having competed over 2’9”, except for the Low Child/Adult Jumper division. Before finalizing the height restriction, we will check all Zone specifications so that we are not going against the rules for the rider’s home zone.

C. Section IV. Composition of Teams and Individual Competitors: in the event that there are teams of three, we will implement a system so that there is always a dropped score. In a team of three, the lowest score will be dropped and the second lowest score will be doubled. This would ensure that every team has a total of four scores and the advantage of a dropped score.

D. Section V. Team Selection: add language that clarifies that USHJA has the final decision to combine sections if there is not a minimum of nine (9) riders per section. There will be a maximum of 24 riders per zone per section, for a total of 48 riders in a section.

E. Section VII. Scoring: removing the requirement for the competition management to provide an official scorekeeper. The USHJA representative on site can act as the official scorekeeper.

F. Section VIII. Championship Competition Format: removing high options from the course requirements for all sections.

The Task Force tabled the remaining sections of the specifications for a second call.

IV. New Business

Ms. Osterman brought forward to the Task Force that there was date change request for the 2020 Zones 7 and 8 Child/Adult Hunter Championships held in Santa Fe. She explained the request from competition management to move to the first week of the horse show series so that the competition will best be able to accommodate the event, and that we were able to accommodate USHJA staff travel for this new week.

Ms. Demas Mulkey made a motion to approve the date change request from the 2020 Zones 7 & 8 Child/Adult Hunter Championships to July 15-19, 2020; Mr. Brown seconded and the motion was passed without further discussion.

V. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

VI. Adjourn

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:41 pm ET.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Osterman
USHJA Assistant Managing Director of Sport Programs

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