

USHJA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2018 – 6:00 p.m. ET via Teleconference

Members Participating: Mary Babick, John Bahret, Dianne Johnson, Anne Kursinski, Larry Langer, Britt McCormick, Cheryl Rubenstein, Charlotte Skinner-Robson

Members Absent: Shelley Campf, David Distler, Margie Engle

Others Present: Katlynn Sacco (USEF), Leslie Mangan

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 by those present.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the April 30, 2018 Executive Committee meeting, as presented. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.

IV. Review/Approval of Updated USHJA Foundation Mission Statement, Tag Line & Logo

The committee reviewed the materials provided within the meeting packet. There was no discussion.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the updated USHJA Mission Statement, Tag Line & Logo, as presented. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.

V. Consideration of Mileage Exemption Requests

A motion was made and seconded to place the mileage exemption requests on the floor for discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.

The following three mileage exemption requests were considered collectively:

Ocala January Classic (“Applicant Competition”) vs. WEF 2, WEC Ocala Winter III & Venice Equestrian Tour I (Priority Competitions”)

Ocala January Festival (“Applicant Competition”) vs. WEF 3, WEC Ocala Winter IV & Venice Equestrian Tour II (“Priority Competitions”)

Ocala Premiere (“Applicant Competition”) vs. WEF 4, WEC Ocala Winter V & Venice Equestrian Tour III (“Priority Competitions”)

Larry Langer identified a conflict of interest with these three mileage exemption requests, recused himself, and left the call during discussion and vote.

The Committee considered the following in its review:

- The Committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competitions is 223.29 miles (WEF 2-4) within a jumper mileage boundary of 225 miles; and 150.67 (Venice I – III) and 8.88 (WEC Ocala III-V) miles respectively within a mileage boundary of 200 miles.
- The Committee noted that the Applicant competitions were granted mileage exemptions for the 2015 – 2018 competition years and the Applicant is seeking to obtain the same permissions for the 2019 year.
- The Committee noted from the materials provided that the Priority Competitions (WEF 2-4 & WEC Ocala Winter III – V) have granted the Applicant permission to run all three of its competitions.
- The Committee noted that the Priority Competitions (Venice Equestrian Tour I-III) provided conditional permission for the Applicant to run, but the Priority Competitions do not have the authority to request the conditions outlined (granting reciprocal mileage exemptions in perpetuity).
- The Committee noted from analyzing horse numbers from 2016-2018 that historically, both the Applicant and the Priority Competitions (WEF and Venice Equestrian Tour) appear to have successfully co-existed, likely due to meeting the needs of different sets of constituents and competitors.
- The Committee's opinion is that there exists a high density and competitive level of competitors in this geographic area at this time of year, and that granting permission to the Applicant Competitions may alleviate overcrowding of horses and/or competitors and provide alternate competitive opportunities in this area and at this time of year.

*A motion was made and seconded to recommend **approval** of the Applicant's request to conduct its 2019 competitions - Ocala January Classic (January 15-20), Ocala January Festival (January 22-27), and Ocala Premiere (January 29-February 3) - at the Hunter National (A) rating and Jumper Level 5 rating. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.*

Larry Langer rejoined the meeting.

Jacksonville Spring Classic III ("Applicant Competition") vs. Aiken Spring Classic Masters ("Priority Competition")

Charlotte Skinner-Robson identified a conflict of interest with this mileage exemption request, recused herself, and left the call during discussion and vote.

The Committee considered the following in its review:

- The Committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competitions is 229.34 within a mileage boundary of 250 miles.
- The Committee noted from the materials provided that no mileage conflict exists for the Applicant's requested Jumper rating, only for the requested Hunter rating.
- The Committee noted from the materials provided that the Applicant competition has been granted mileage exemptions for both 2016 and 2017 as a result of receiving permission from the Priority Competition, however the Applicant withdrew its application in 2018. Now, the Applicant is seeking the same mileage exemption for the 2019 year, but has been denied by the Priority Competition citing dilution of competitors.
- The Committee's opinion is that approval of this request would negatively impact the Priority Competition which is meeting the needs of the sport by providing a range of competitive opportunities for the exhibitors in this geographic area at this time of year.
- The committee is of the opinion that the density of available competitors in this geographic area at this time of year will not support the addition of another competition in the same area with offerings for essentially the same competitors. The Applicant has not indicated that it would be providing competitive opportunities that differ from what currently exist.

*A motion was made and seconded to recommend **disapproval** of the Applicant's request to conduct its 2018 competition (April 17-20) at the Hunter National (A) rating. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.*

Charlotte Skinner-Robson rejoined the meeting.

VI. Consideration of Limiting Entries & Special Competition Status Requests

A motion was made and seconded to place the Limiting Entries and Special Competition Status requests on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

2018 Capital Challenge Horse Show Limiting Entries Request

The committee reviewed the materials provided within the meeting packet that outlined Capital Challenge Horse Show's 2018 request to limit entries in its Green Hunter 3' and 3'3" sections by the sex of the horse to allow for a more balanced split among the sections. Additionally, the show requests splitting the Green Hunter 3' section by the age of the horse to allow for an equitable split of what has become a very large section and also to better showcase and market the green hunters jumping at this height. No questions were asked.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of the 2018 Capital Challenge Horse Show's request to limit entries by splitting the Green Hunter 3' and 3'3" sections by the sex of the horse, as well as splitting the Green Hunter 3' section by age of horse. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.

Special Competition Request – Reconsideration of 2019/20 Palm Beach Masters

The Committee reconsidered a previously reviewed request due to a reallocation of FEI prize money for the event. No changes otherwise to the event's schedule or format were being made.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval for granting Special Competition status for the 2019 and 2020 Palm Beach Masters, as presented. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.

Special Competition Request – 2019 Ridge at Wellington Palm Beach Series Hunter Derby Days (#335037, #331499 & #331500)

The Committee reviewed the three applications and noted that there are no direct conflicts with any other International Hunter Derbies on any of the dates proposed. After brief discussion, the majority felt that there is a high enough density of competitors in this geographic area at this time of year to support this event without negatively impacting other concurrent competitions in the immediate area.

Hearing no additional discussion, the Executive Committee recommended approval of all three 2019 Ridge at Wellington Palm Beach Series Hunter Derby Days' requests for Special Competition status by majority vote, with one abstention recorded.

Special Competition Request – 2019 Deeridge Derby

The Committee reviewed the application submitted requesting Special Competition status for the 2019 Deeridge Derby weekend. The Committee feels this competition has established itself as a unique showcase at an exceptional venue that provides positive promotional benefits for the sport. USHJA feels there is a high enough density of competitors in this geographic area at this time of year to support this event without negatively impacting other concurrent competitions in the immediate area.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of Deeridge Derby's 2019 request for Special Competition status. The motion was unanimously approved.

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.

• **2018 Zone 2 Equitation Championship Host**

The Committee reviewed a request submitted by Zone 2 and approved by the Hunter Working Group naming Spotted Toad August (#337571) as the host venue for the 2018 Zone 2 Equitation Championship. The Zone committee arrived at their recommendation after reviewing all applications received during the host application process.

A motion was made and seconded to approve Spotted Toad August (#337571) as the host venue for the 2018 Zone 2 Equitation Championship. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.

• **2018 WCHR Capital Challenge Specifications**

The Committee reviewed the specifications originally submitted by the WCHR Task Force, but slightly amended (and subsequently approved) by the Hunter Working Group.

Hearing no further discussion, the Executive Committee voted unanimously to approve the 2018 WCHR Capital Challenge Specifications, as presented.

- **2018 Jumper Championship Trainer Incentive**

The Committee reviewed a proposal submitted by the NAYC/PDS Task Force, supported financially by Zones 1-10, and approved by the Jumper Working Group that seeks to encourage and reward professionals that support the USHJA and USEF Jumper Championships. The proposal calls for awarding prize money and other awards to the high point trainers at the following 2018 Jumper Championships:

- FEI North American Youth Championships
- All five USHJA Zone Jumper Team Championships
- USEF Pony Jumper Championships
- USEF National Junior Jumper Championships

In addition, the proposal calls for recognizing the trainer with the highest cumulative points across all the Championships for the year.

The Committee engaged in conversation about the proposal. Although completely in favor of the recognition component of this initiative, the Committee voiced reservations with the prize money element, and specifically has opposition with respect to the source funds coming from the zones. The point was raised that since the program's intent is to recognize and reward trainers, the USHJA Awards Committee should be consulted and provide oversight.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal amended to remove the prize money component, consult with the Awards Committee, and launch the program in 2018.

There was additional discussion regarding the fact that the Hunter riders would likely want to be included in this proposal and that the Committee was being rushed into making a decision and attempting to initiate a program in the middle of a year which is not necessarily in the best interest of the membership.

At the conclusion of discussion, the majority of the Committee recommended the program proponents take the necessary time to consult with the Awards Committee to recraft and refine the proposal, including building in adequate time to properly communicate and promote the program (if approved), and then resubmit for approval with a target for launch in 2019.

Hearing no further discussion, a roll call vote was conducted and the motion to remove the prize money component but still launch the program in 2018 was disapproved by majority vote.

VIII. Old Business
None

IX. New Business
None

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn, and the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. EDT.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Larry Langer, Secretary