



USHJA Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

August 13, 2018 – 6:30 p.m. ET

Board Members Present: Mary Babick, John Bahret, Debbie Bass, Katie Benson, Tom Brennan, Diane Carney, Rick Cram, David Distler, 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: Shelley Campf, Joe Dotoli, Anne Kursinski

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. Approval of Amended Agenda

Tobey McWilliams made a motion to adopt the amended agenda. Rick Cram seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by those present.

IV. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

John Bahret made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 9, 2018 Board of Directors meeting, as presented. Larry Langer seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by those present.

V. 2019 In-Person Board Meeting Date Selection

Board members considered two sets of dates for the 2019 in-person May Board meeting:

- May 6 & 7, 2019
- May 13 & 14, 2019

After brief discussion, it was determined that the dates of May 6 & 7, 2019 best accommodated the majority of Board members and were therefore selected.

VI. Amended Ethical Standards & Rule of Conduct Policy

Mr. Langer made a motion to place the amended Ethical Standards & Rules of Conduct Policy on the floor for discussion and vote. Mr. Cram seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by those present.

The Board reconsidered the policy tabled from the July 9 Board meeting and that was amended based in the recommendations provided during that meeting. Mr. Bahret pointed out that the

language under the Rules of Conduct pertaining to use of the USHJA logo might need to be tightened up to clarify that use of the USHJA logo is restricted under an existing policy and not free for anyone to use as they see fit. The need for other language edits was also identified during discussion. Mary Babick requested a motion to table final vote until the edits could be made and she indicated the document would be distributed for email vote, once the edits were completed.

Mr. Langer made a motion to table final vote on the amended Ethical Standards and Rules of Conduct Policy pending additional language edits being made to the document, after which it would be distributed to the Board for email vote. Betty Oare seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by those present.

VII. USEF Protest Update

Mary Babick informed the Directors that a formal USEF protest had been filed by a competition manager naming the USHJA President, the USHJA Executive Director, and the entire Zone 2 Committee in that complaint. The protest claims that USHJA violated Federation rules by colluding with vested parties in the selection of the host competition for the 2018 Zone 2 Equitation Championship. USHJA has already filed a request to dismiss and both the protest as well as the request to dismiss will be presented to the USEF Hearing Committee.

VIII. Review of 2018 Rule Change Proposals

Charlotte Skinner-Robson made a motion to place all the 2018 rule change proposals on the floor for discussion and vote. Mr. Bahret seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by those present.

Updated Draft – USEF-Proposed GR309 Special Competitions

Overall, the USHJA Board is pleased with this new draft version and feels the new language adequately addresses prior concerns and agrees with the mileage conflict resolution position this new proposal establishes. Furthermore, the Board feels this newly proposed language successfully aligns the Special Competitions rule with the spirit associated with the rule's initial creation.

USHJA is in favor of this newly proposed language and supports the proposed rule change being entered into the USEF Rule Change System, however USHJA recommends certain consideration be given to various suggestions and/or questions as raised below:

Regarding the Introduction to New PRC section:

- The bullet point in the Introduction section that reads, “Establishing a category of special license competition for unusual events not necessarily covered under USEF rules,” is unclear. What is the intent of this statement?
- The statement in the Introduction section that reads, “Establishes that a priority date holder competition retains its status at its original level after the special competition portion is completed” needs clarification.

Under the rule change language itself:

- If point 1 were to be read independently and without context, it could be easily misunderstood and leave the impression that no affiliate or committee/council review is part of the application process. Although the review process is explained later in the rule, it might be prudent to list a reference to that section under point 1.
- Likewise, under 2.d., the same concern could be raised because it is not clear that affiliate input will be considered and evaluated by the USEF Board of Directors prior to their taking final action.

- Under 3.b., it is the USHJA’s recommendation to clearly define “competitive application or ‘bid’ process” to the extent possible and ensure its consistent application in this process.

Consideration of USHJA Board-Proposed Rule Change Proposals

Reference	Subject	Action
HJ201	*Standalone International Hunter Derby Sub-Type License *IHD/GH Task Force is to meet prior to Aug 31 to provide input	Approved, as amended
EQ110.12	USHJA 3’3” Jumping Seat Medal	Approved w/amended intent
HU164	International Hunter Derby	Approved w/amended intent
HU167	USHJA Pony Hunter Derby	Approved w/amended intent
HU169	USHJA Young Hunter Pony Championship	Approved, as amended
HU170	USHJA Ch/AA Hunter Championships	Approved w/amended intent
HU196	*USHJA Green Hunter Incentive Program *It is possible, a portion of this RCP can be submitted as a clarification as opposed to a Standard RCP.	Approved w/amended intent
HU197	World Championship Hunter Rider Program	*Approved w/amended intent *One vote of disapproval recorded
JP152	USHJA Zone Jumper Team Championships and Platinum Level Jumper Championships	Approved w/amended intent
EQ111	USHJA National Championships	Approved w/amended intent
HU163	USHJA National Championships	*Approved w/amended intent *One vote of disapproval recorded
JP153	USHJA National Championships	Approved w/amended intent
Multiple	USHJA Zone Horse of the Year Championships	*Approved w/amended intent *One vote of disapproval recorded
Multiple	USHJA Zone Stirrup Cup Championships	*Approved w/amended intent *One vote of disapproval recorded
HU171	Zone Handy Hunter Challenge	Tabled, pending language clarification
HU136	Pony Measurement Age	Disapproved; roll call vote 11-6
HU111.1	Green Hunter Nomenclature	Disapproved; roll call vote 10-7
GR311.2	Green Hunter Nomenclature	Disapproved; roll call vote 10-7
GR1131.3	Green Hunter Nomenclature	Disapproved; roll call vote 10-7

IX. Sport Program Request – 2019 Hunterdon Cup Specifications

Mr. Langer made a motion to place all the 2019 Hunterdon Cup Specifications on the floor for discussion and vote. Mrs. Oare seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by those present

The committee considered the proposed specifications and made one correction to the fourth sentence under Section II.3. by striking the words as shown: “The jumps may not be changed in any way from ~~Round 1 and/or~~ Round 2, and the riders may not be asked...”

Hearing no more discussion, the Board of Directors approved the 2019 Hunterdon Cup Specifications, as amended by majority vote of those present.

X. Board Ad-Hoc Status Updates

The Directors reviewed the status update reports that were tabled from the July meeting. No questions were asked.

XI. Presidential Reimbursement Ad Hoc Report

Ms. Babick identified a conflict of interest with this agenda item, recused herself, and left the call after turning the meeting over to Vice-President David Distler.

Mr. Distler recognized Mr. Bahret, chair of the Presidential Reimbursement Ad Hoc who presented the report provided to the Directors in a separate meeting packet. The ad hoc committee considered the following in its review:

- current compensation amounts and parameters
- presidential expense history from 2013 to present
- anecdotal information from other USEF affiliates
- survey information concerning stipends, per diems, honorariums, and expense reimbursement from the American Association of Medical Society Executives
- US Department of Labor definitions, consideration of the President's duties/responsibilities as defined by the USHJA By-Laws, as well as review of the actual tasks and functions performed
- careful review of New York State Not-of-Profit Law and IRS regulations covering volunteer compensation.

At the conclusion of the committee's work, consideration was given to four possible options, but the committee ultimately voted unanimously to recommend that the current Travel Day fee amount of \$750 per travel day be maintained at its current rate, but that a stipend of \$750 per month be added to the budget for presidential work conducted from home.

Ms. Skinner-Robson made a motion to approve the ad hoc's recommendation to add a monthly stipend of \$750 to the Presidential Reimbursement policy for work conducted at home on behalf of USHJA. Mr. Langer seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by those present.

Although not part of the ad hoc's mandate, the committee additionally recommends that the Board consider reimbursing the President on an annual basis for a travel insurance policy that covers expenses for illness and/or accident while traveling on behalf of USHJA. It was noted that this type of policy is traditionally relatively inexpensive (at under \$400 per annum).

XIII. Old Business

None

XIV. New Business

None

There being no further business, Mr. Langer made a motion to adjourn, and the meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Langer, Secretary