Board Members Present: Mary Babick, John Bahret, Katie Benson, Richard Cram, David Distler, Joseph Dotoli, Dianne Johnson, Anne Kursinski, Britt McCormick, Tobey McWilliams, Betty Oare, Mike Rosser, Robin Rost Brown, Cheryl Rubenstein, Charlotte Skinner-Robson, James Urban, Caroline Weeden, Sissy Wickes

Board Members Not Present: Margie Engle, Brooke Kemper

Staff Present: Kevin Price, Leigh Anne Claywell, Mary Hope Kramer, Marianne Kutner, Lisa Moss

I. Welcome
Mary Babick welcomed the Board and the meeting commenced at 7:00 p.m. ET.

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

III. Approval of Agenda
Rick Cram made a motion to adopt the agenda. Betty Oare seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

IV. Review of Rule Change Proposals
John Bahret made a motion to place all rule change proposals on the floor for discussion and vote. Dianne Johnson seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The Board reviewed the materials provided in the meeting packet.

- GR 312 – Tracking #133-19
  It was noted that this rule change proposal contained additional language regarding the number of competitions that could be held consecutively “by the same licensee or any entity associated with the same licensee during any calendar week (Monday through Sunday). If the licensee is a business entity, this provision includes all persons listed as principals of the business entity.” Examples of the “entity associated with the licensee” were briefly discussed, including family members or those with an existing business relationship.

  The Board voted unanimously to approve GR 312 – Tracking #133-19, as presented.

- GR 315 – Tracking #135-19
  It was noted that this rule change proposal added the language “for the first time” in section f, regarding competitions requesting a mileage exemption.

  The Board voted unanimously to approve GR 315 – Tracking #135-19, as presented.
• **GR 414 – Tracking #127-19**
  It was noted that this rule change proposal deleted language regarding the use of bisphosphonates. There was brief discussion about why both the bisphosphonates language and the tracheotomy/tracheostomy language appeared in the same RCP. Ms. Babick noted that USHJA preferred to submit separate RCPs for each individual change, while USEF preferred to consolidate multiple items into a single RCP.

  The Board voted unanimously to approve GR 414 – Tracking #127-19, as presented.

• **GR 846 – Tracking #126-19**
  It was noted that this rule change proposal added the language “within 24 hours of any horse identified as showing symptoms of infectious disease” to the accident preparedness plan.

  The Board voted unanimously to approve GR 846 – Tracking #126-19, as presented.

• **GR 10 – Tracking #146-19**
  It was noted that this rule change proposal involved simplifying and clarifying language (in GR 1024.3.b and GR1025.3.b), and that the language in GR 1031 (3 and 4) was edited to refer to the JP and GR sections rather than including the language in GR 10. Additionally, the full version of chapter 10 was included for reference. The GR1022 Jumper Course Designer updates were briefly discussed. The conversation then turned to GR 1038.3 which included language stating that “a member of the manager’s family may not officiate as a licensed official at said manager’s competition.” It was noted that course designers had excluded from this in the past. It was noted that every other licensed official was listed in the document but course designers were omitted from specific mention with regard to management, so 1038.3 may have been an oversight. Ms. Babick agreed it would be best to postpone a vote on this proposal for a later email vote once she had a chance to confer with USEF on this language. There was also discussion of the hunter breeding guest card language (GR 1005.19.b), noting that a USHJA rule change proposal on this topic appeared to not have been taken into account during the rewrite of Chapter 10, as it would have required this language to be struck. Ms. Babick indicated she would follow up with USEF on the matter.

  Ms. Oare made a motion to postpone GR 10 – Tracking #146-19 for a later email vote. Joe Dotoli seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to postpone GR 10 – Tracking #146-19 for a later email vote.

• **GR 1034.4 – Tracking #115-19**
  It was noted that this rule change proposal was updated to unstrike the language “than three consecutive years and the same competition or more” in 4, and to unstrike the language “than two consecutive years at the same competition or more” in 5.

  The Board voted unanimously to approve GR 1034.4 – Tracking #115-19, as presented.

• **GR 1131 – Tracking #142-19**
  It was noted that this rule change proposal removed the words “and the USHJA Green Hunter Incentive Stake” and added “the money won and points won in the USHJA Green Hunter Incentive Stake will only be awarded toward a declared Hunter section for HOTY points if a horse competes in the declared section a minimum of three (3) times during the competition year.” It was noted that this proposal was in direct contradiction to a USHJA rule, and that the Board had previously felt that this should be disapproved. It was pointed out that since this proposal had been made by an individual it would be presented at the USEF Annual Meeting regardless of the Board’s decision. It was noted that if it was disapproved at the USEF Annual Meeting, either the individual or USHJA could re-submit the proposal for consideration during
the next rule change cycle, which would allow a full year to study the data. Considerations for implementation of this proposal, such as IT costs and manual reporting fees, were highlighted. The conversation also included an acknowledgement of the fact that there are two HOTY systems (one based on points and one based on money won), and a discussion of the concept of jumping a horse fewer times while earning more prize money.

*The Board voted to disapprove GR 1131 – Tracking #142-19, with three abstentions noted.*

- **HU 131.2 – Tracking #149-19**
  It was noted that this rule change proposal would require postponement, since some edits proposed by the USEF legal department made the rule even more unclear. Ms. Babick indicated that she had reached out to a USEF representative with regard to the edits, and was still awaiting their response. A question was asked about the separate Green 3'9” Reinstatement rule, as to whether it would be cited in this rule. Ms. Babick indicated she would look into the matter to ensure that the Green Reinstatement rule was be cited here if appropriate.

  *Ms. Oare made a motion to postpone HU 131.2 – Tracking #149-19 until a response was received from USEF about further revisions. Mr. Dotoli seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to postpone HU 131.2 – Tracking #149-19 until a response was received from USEF about further revisions.*

- **HU 162.5 – Tracking #170-19**
  It was noted that this rule change proposal changed the intent of the rule with regard to splits, specifically mentioning that exhibitors should be sure of competing against “like exhibitors (age or size of horse) without strange combining of sections to meet the current need of six entries.” The intent also indicated that the change to four entries required to fill a section is more in line with all other A-rated sections, the majority of which require only 3 to fill. A comment was made that the hope was that this rule would lessen the frequency of the California Split, which many were opposed to in the past. There was also some discussion about the fact that management could still decide whether to split by age or size, and perhaps this should be examined further.

  *The Board voted to approve HU 162.5 – Tracking #170-19, with one vote of disapproval noted.*

- **HU 169 – Tracking #143-19**
  It was noted that this rule change proposal was deleting language from the intent, “in addition #5 has nonsensical language as originally proposed. Further #015-19 failed to incorporate an update to the applicable GR chapter to include Incentive points for HOTY standings. This RCP and its language are intended to correct those mistakes.” It was noted that the USHJA already had entered a version of this RCP which was very similar (though USHJA’s version kept the language about confirmation sections not counting), and that since this was the case it would make sense to disapprove this additional RCP.

  *The Board voted unanimously to disapprove HU 169 – Tracking #143-19.*

- **V. Consideration of COVID-19 Scenarios**
  *Mr. Bahret made a motion to put the COVID-19 scenarios on the floor for discussion and vote. Ms. Skinner-Robson seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.*

  The Board reviewed the potential impact of the COVID-19 shutdown on competitions based on 30, 60, 90, 120, and 150 day projections. Financial projections and suggestions from members were also considered.
The Board agreed to the following actions for the next 30 day period:

- **Green Hunter Incentive**: Freeze enrollment fees and remove qualification requirements other than enrollment
- **International Hunter Derby**: Freeze enrollment fees and remove qualification requirements other than enrollment, which also eliminates premium entries
- **WCHR**: Task Force will report back to the Board with recommendations within the week
- **3’3” Jumping Seat Medal**: take the top 130 riders regardless of point levels for the East Coast, and the top 100 riders regardless of point levels for the West Coast
- **3’3” Hunter Seat Medal**: accept all junior riders who enter
- **Pony Derby Finals**: no change needed
- **ZJTC**: pause for 30 days before making a decision (making no announcement at this time)
- **USHJA National Championships**: no change at this time

*Jim Urban made a motion to approve the COVID-19 actions of the Board for the next 30 days, as presented above. Cheryl Rubenstein seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the COVID-19 actions for the next 30 days, as presented above.*

VI. Old Business
None

VII. New Business
None

VIII. Adjourn
There being no further business, the April 2020 special meeting of the USHJA Board of Directors was adjourned April 6, 2020 at 8:50 p.m. ET.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Johnson, Secretary
**USHJA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**  
Tuesday, April 14, 2020 – 7:00 p.m. ET

**Board Members Present:** Mary Babick, John Bahret, Katie Benson, Richard Cram, Margie Engle, Dianne Johnson, Brooke Kemper, Britt McCormick, Tobey McWilliams, Betty Oare, Mike Rosser, Robin Rost Brown, Cheryl Rubenstein, Charlotte Skinner-Robson, James Urban, Caroline Weeden, Sissy Wickes

**Board Members Not Present:** David Distler, Joseph Dotoli, Anne Kursinski

**Staff Present:** Kevin Price, Leigh Anne Claywell, Mary Hope Kramer, Marianne Kutner, Lisa Moss

I. **Welcome**  
Mary Babick welcomed the Board and the meeting commenced at 7:00 p.m. ET.

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

III. **Approval of Agenda**  
John Bahret made a motion to adopt the agenda. Dianne Johnson seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

IV. **Review of Rule Change Proposals**  
Betty Oare made a motion to place all rule change proposals on the floor for discussion and vote. Ms. Johnson seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The Board reviewed the materials provided in the meeting packet. It was noted that both proposals had been postponed during the April 6 meeting.

- **GR 10 – Tracking #146-19**  
It was noted that this rule change proposal has been postponed to allow for further discussion and clarification with USEF. Ms. Babick indicated that she had received further communication from Alina Brazzil acknowledging a mistake had been made while trying to align the language between GR 10 and GR 12, and that utilizing language from GR 12 would address the Board’s previous concern regarding course designers. The specific language in GR 12 states that “a manager cannot serve as steward, technical delegate, eventing certified cross country course designer, or certified schooling supervisor of his own competition. A member of a manager’s family cannot officiate as a judge, steward, technical delegate, eventing certified cross country course designer, or certified schooling supervisor at said manager’s competition.” The Board agreed that using this language would eliminate the concern regarding course designers, and consensus was that it should be included.

Ms. Babick also noted that there had been further discussion with USEF on the topic of hunter breeding cards as referenced in this rule. A Presidential Modification had been granted based on the condition that USHJA would write a rule change proposal to address hunter breeding cards,
but for some reason this RCP was not approved. She indicated that USEF had agreed to work with USHJA on an Extraordinary Rule Change Proposal for the 2021 Rule Book, and that if it was not accepted at that time, a second Presidential Modification would be granted to allow additional time to submit another rule change proposal.

Jim Urban made a motion to disapprove GR 10 – Tracking #146-19 with the comment that the Board would be in favor of approval if the language from GR 1202 was inserted. Rick Cram seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to disapprove GR 10 – Tracking #146-19 with the comment that the Board would be in favor of approval if the language from GR 1202 was inserted.

- HU 131.2 – Tracking #149-19
  It was noted that this rule change proposal was postponed to allow for further discussion on streamlining the rule and clarifying language, and that the new rewrite was included in the meeting materials.
  
The Board voted unanimously to approve HU 131.2 – Tracking #149-19, with the comment that the Board disapproved of Draft 3, but would approve the errata sheet that was provided for this meeting.

V. Review of Rule Clarification Proposals

Ms. Oare made a motion to place all rule clarification proposals on the floor for discussion and vote. Brooke Kemper seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The Board reviewed the materials provided in the meeting packet.

- HJ 126 – Tracking #361-19
  It was noted that this rule clarification proposal was striking out the language “Equine Canada measurement cards are not acceptable proof of height” because they are now, in fact, acceptable proof of height.

  The Board voted unanimously to approve the rule clarification for HJ 126 Tracking #361-19, as presented.

- HU Appendix A – Tracking #360-19
  It was noted that this rule clarification proposal strikes language that is no longer relevant regarding the use of FEI Approved Safety Cups in warm-up/schooling areas prior to December 2019, and updates the language regarding course requirements to read “The use of FEI approved safety cups is mandatory in all warm-up/schooling areas.”

  The Board voted unanimously to approve HU Appendix A – Tracking #360-19, as presented.

VI. Consideration of WCHR Recommendations on COVID-19

Ms. Johnson made a motion to put the WCHR recommendations on COVID-19 scenarios on the floor for discussion and vote. Mr. Bahret seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The Board reviewed the COVID-19 recommendations from the WCHR Task Force. The Board discussed the idea of streamlining the approval path for host applications so they could go directly from the Task Force to the Executive Committee, rather than going through the Working Group as an intermediate step, due to the limited amount of time to make changes. The Board agreed that this would be acceptable. There was also discussion about allowing the Executive Committee to vote on these items by email, and legal counsel Marianne Kutner agreed that this would be acceptable.
The Board agreed to the following actions from the WCHR Task Force recommendations:

- Allow date change requests by impacted events (moving from one show to another)
- Reopen host applications for a short period of time and allow the Task Force to send recommendations directly to the Executive Committee for an email vote
- Limit the amount of shows for qualifying on a sliding scale (at 30 days the number drops to 3, at 60 days the number drops to 2, and remains at 2 thereafter)
- Allow a region change one time until August 31
- Move the West Coast Spectacular from Blenheim June Classic I to June Classic II

*Mr. Urban made a motion to approve the WCHR COVID-19 actions, as presented above. Ms. Johnson seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the WCHR COVID-19 actions, as presented above.*

VI. **Old Business**

None

VII. **New Business**

The Board discussed the potential for having to change the Annual Meeting to a virtual event for 2020 due to the COVID-19 situation. A question was asked with regard to the timeline for being able to recoup hotel/event deposits. Kevin Price noted that the deadline to cancel with the hotel was May 9, but that it might also be possible to negotiate to reschedule the conference with that venue for a later year (2022). The potential for a resurgence of the illness in the fall was also discussed. Mr. Price noted that the staff would work on how to accommodate a virtual meeting. A point was made that due to the economic impact of this situation, many members might be unable to justify spending the time or money to attend in person would still be able to participate. There was also some discussion about solutions for handling election processes if the meeting was to go virtual.

Ms. Babick shifted topics to indicate that she had received a great deal of member feedback regarding USEF’s call for expressions of interest in hosting the Medal and Prix des States, which would indicate a potential move away from Harrisburg. Members had asked whether the USHJA Board would make any statement on this development, and expressed some displeasure about the potential change, but Ms. Babick noted that these were USEF properties and that USEF would be making the decision. Discussion turned to issues that had been ongoing with Harrisburg, and the fact that this could either inspire them to make changes or it could lead to the end of Harrisburg entirely.

A question was also asked as to whether there was an official response Board members should use with regard to the petition going around to reinstate the junior year. It was noted that while the situation was very unfortunate, it did not appear to be logistically possible to accommodate a reinstatement, and that USHJA was awaiting USEF’s decision on the matter.

VIII. **Adjourn**

There being no further business, Mr. Bahret made a motion to adjourn, and the April 2020 special meeting of the USHJA Board of Directors was adjourned April 14, 2020 at 7:44 p.m. ET.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Johnson, Secretary
USHJA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, April 28, 2020 – 6:00 p.m. ET

Board Members Present: Mary Babick, John Bahret, Katie Benson, David Distler, Joseph Dotoli, Margie Engle, Dianne Johnson, Brooke Kemper, Anne Kursinski, Britt McCormick, Betty Oare, Mike Rosser, Robin Rost Brown, Cheryl Rubenstein, Charlotte Skinner-Robson, James Urban, Caroline Weeden, Sissy Wickes

Board Members Not Present: Richard Cram, Tobey McWilliams

Staff Present: Kevin Price, Mary Hope Kramer, Marianne Kutner, Lisa Moss

I. **Welcome**
   Mary Babick welcomed the Board and the meeting commenced at 6:00 p.m. ET.

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

III. **Approval of Agenda**
    John Bahret made a motion to adopt the agenda. Betty Oare seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

IV. **Review of Competitions and State Restrictions**
The Board reviewed the materials provided in the meeting packet and discussed the implications of a state-by-state opening. Topics included the possibility of creating an awards structure on a state-by-state basis, creating a finals structure, and what would happen in any states that do not hold horse shows. The consensus was that any changes to the awards structure could be determined at a later date since the COVID-19 situation continues to develop rapidly, and that it was premature to make a decision at this time. It was noted that USEF would soon release a comprehensive set of guidelines for reopening, which was developed with the assistance of the Competition Management Committee and state offices.

The Board agreed that it would fully support the return of shows, once allowed by states and counties, in a safe and responsible manner. Additionally, it was determined that no stance would be taken at this time with regard to points, other than with respect to those previously stated in communications regarding various championships. The Board agreed to revisit this topic as necessary, and no formal action was taken at this time.

V. **Review of COVID-19 Scenarios**
The Board reviewed the materials provided in the meeting packet. It was noted that the 60 day contingency would essentially be reached, provided USEF allowed competitions to resume as of June 1.

Ms. Babick reminded the Board that it had previously paused a decision on the cancellation of the Zone Jumper Team Championships. It was noted that the Emerging Jumper Rider Task Force felt strongly that cancellation would be necessary at this point, since there would be a very short period for
The Board reviewed materials provided in the meeting packet. It was noted that the idea of opening up qualifying to all who placed first or second in an underlying class would not be feasible, since this would result in 592 potential qualifiers when only 210 could be accommodated. It was determined that it would be best to make no change at this time, and that the concept of opening up entries further could be considered later if warranted. There was some discussion about potential date changes, but it was noted that the Gladstone Cup was tied to the Junior Hunter Finals, so unless that event was to cancel and not reschedule, the Gladstone Cup would not be able to make changes to dates and sites. There was also some discussion about considering a more regionalized structure, and it was agreed that this could be researched further.

The Board voted unanimously to make no change to the Gladstone Cup at this time.

VI. Old Business
None

VII. New Business
A question was asked as to whether the USEF guidelines on safely reopening shows would allow for any spectators to attend. Ms. Babick indicated that spectators from the general public would not be allowed at this time, and that the guidelines would define the number of people allowed to attend per horse entered.

Ms. Babick noted she would continue with Zone manager calls this week, and that she would send out a communication to members regarding recent Board actions. She also mentioned that her next virtual Town Hall on May 6 would feature materials from Dr. Kathy Ferbas, an infectious disease specialist, who offered to help with the development of safety protocols for barns.
There being no further business, Ms. Oare made a motion to adjourn, and the April 2020 special meeting of the USHJA Board of Directors was adjourned April 28, 2020 at 6:59 p.m. ET.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Johnson, Secretary