

USHJA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2018 – 6:00 p.m. ET via Teleconference

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

Members Absent: Shelley Campf

Others Present: Katlynn Sacco (USEF), Kevin Price, Leslie Mangan, Lizzy Chesson (USEF) & Jennifer Haydon (USEF)

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.

III. Consideration of USEF Mileage Exemption Requests

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

Showplace Summer @ Ledges (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Waterloo Hunt & Waterloo H&J Classic (“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 244.70 miles, with a mileage boundary of 250 miles.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that no mileage conflict exists for the requested Jumper rating, only for the requested Hunter Division rating.
- The committee confirmed with Federation representatives that no reports of compliance issues were received on the part of the Priority Competitions and that those competitions are meeting the needs of the exhibitors in this area at this time of year.
- The committee’s opinion is the introduction of a new competition into the environment at the Applicant’s requested Hunter rating level would have a negative impact on the Priority Competitions.
- The committee feels it is generally not in the best interest of the sport to approve an Applicant Premier-rated competition that would be held over the same dates as existing Priority National-rated and/or Regional-rated competitions.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Applicant is citing the need for “a smaller show for some of the people to have an option in the summer,” because not all

exhibitors can afford the higher level shows being offered in the area (listing Balmoral as the example), yet the committee questions whether introducing a new competition into the environment at the Premier Hunter and Jumper Level 4 rating would accomplish the desired objective of providing a more affordable competitive opportunity.

- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Applicant Competition can run without conflict at a Regional I Hunter and Jumper Level 4 rating and feels this Hunter rating would more correctly meet the Applicant's documented objective of providing a more affordable competitive opportunity within the area, and as a result, the committee recommends the Applicant pursue that option.

*A motion was made and seconded to recommend **disapproval** of the Applicant's request to conduct its 2018 competition (June 26-July 1, 2018) at the Premier Hunter and Jumper Level 4 ratings. The motion was approved by majority vote, with one vote of disapproval recorded.*

Mason Dixon Classic ("Applicant Competition") vs. CJL Farm, Inc. & Rose Mount Farm Summer ("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 86.82 miles (CJL Farm, Inc.) and 111.05 miles (Rose Mount Farm) with a mileage boundary of 90 miles and 125 miles respectively.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that no mileage conflict exists for the requested Jumper rating, only for the requested Hunter Division rating.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Applicant competition is requesting a Hunter rating upgrade from Regional I to National for 2018. Additionally, the committee noted that the Applicant competition had run with permission at the National rating in 2016, but because it missed the mileage exemption application deadline, the Applicant was unable to request the higher rating for 2017.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Priority Competition (CJL Farm, Inc.) granted permission to the Applicant to run in 2018 with the restriction that the Applicant not run any of the following sections or classes on Sunday, July 29, 2018:
 - Children's Hunter – Horse & Pony
 - Adult Amateur Hunter
 - Dover Saddlery Hunter Seat Medal
 - Children's/Adult Jumpers
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Priority Competition (Rose Mount Farm Summer) denied the Applicant's current request for mileage exemption, although it had provided permission to the Applicant in 2016.
- The committee reviewed the mileage between the Priority Competition (Rose Mount Farms) and the Applicant Competition and noted that although the radial mileage is within the boundary, the actual road mileage (127.54) falls outside the mileage boundary of 125 miles.

- After reviewing the provided horse entry numbers for all three competitions from 2015-2017, the committee's opinion is that the Applicant Competition has had no negative impact on the Priority Competitions, and the numbers actually reflect that all three competitions have successfully co-existed within the environment for several years.
- The committee's opinion is that since one Priority Competition has provided permission, and the data provided indicates that the Applicant Competition is not having a negative impact on the Priority Competitions, its request for mileage exemption should be granted. However, the committee feels strongly that such approval, if granted, be contingent on the requirement that the Applicant honor the restrictions requested by the Priority Competition (CJL Farm, Inc.).

*A motion was made and seconded to recommend **approval** of the Applicant's request to conduct its 2018 competitions (July 25-29, 2018) at the National Hunter and Level 2 Jumper ratings. The motion was unanimously approved.*

Princeton Show Jumping August ("Applicant Competition") vs. Harrisburg Classic, Harrisburg National Horse Show, Baymar Farms, Inc. & Smoke Rise Riding Club ("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 116.61 miles (Harrisburg Classic & Harrisburg National), with a mileage boundary of 125 miles, and 22.66 miles (Baymar Farms) and 42.88 miles (Smoke Rise Riding Club) with a mileage boundary of 50 miles.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that no mileage conflict exists for the requested Jumper rating, only for the requested Hunter Division rating.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Applicant competition has run successfully at the Level 4 Jumper rating for several years and is applying for the first time to add a Hunter Division rating in 2018.
- The committee feels it is generally not in the best interest of the sport to approve an Applicant Premier-rated competition that would be held over the same dates and within the mileage boundary as existing Priority National-rated and/or Regional-rated competitions, and feels that approving the Applicant's request would negatively impact those Priority Competitions.
- Although the committee feels that exhibitors in this geographic area might benefit from having enhanced competitive opportunities at the National or higher Hunter Division rating throughout the year, it is the committee's opinion that no shortage of competitive opportunities exists at this time of year, and it cannot agree to the Applicant's request to run in direct conflict with the Priority Competitions that already run at the National rating and are meeting the needs of the competitors.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Applicant Competition can run without conflict at the Level 4 Jumper rating, as it has in the past, and recommends the Applicant pursue that option.

*A motion was made and seconded to recommend **disapproval** of the Applicant's request to conduct its 2018 competition (August 22-26, 2018) at the Premier Hunter rating and Level 4 Jumper rating. The motion was unanimously approved.*

Tryon August I ("Applicant Competition") vs. Atlanta Summerfest I & Lexington National Horse Show ("Priority Competitions")

David Distler and Larry Langer identified conflicts of interest with this exemption request, recused themselves, and left the meeting prior to 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 188.13 miles (Atlanta Summerfest I) and 226.22 (Lexington National) with a mileage boundary of 250 miles.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that there is no jumper conflict; the mileage exemption request is specific to the Hunter rating.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Applicant Competition ran with permission in 2017 at the requested Hunter and Jumper ratings (Premier/Level 4) and is seeking to do the same for 2018.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Priority Competition (Lexington National) has granted its permission to the Applicant for 2018.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Priority Competition (Atlanta Summerfest I) provided no response to this request, but it has historically provided permission in prior years.
- The committee's opinion is that since one Priority Competition has provided permission, and no objection to the Applicant's request has been received from the second Priority Competition, there seems no reasonable reason why the Applicant's request for mileage exemption would not be granted.

*A motion was made and seconded to recommend **approval** of the Applicant's request to conduct its 2018 competitions (August 8-12, 2018) at the Premier Hunter and Level 4 Jumper ratings. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.*

Both David Distler and Larry Langer rejoined the meeting.

VI. Consideration of USEF Special Competition Status Requests

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

- 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games
The committee reviewed the materials provided; no questions were asked.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of the Special Competition status request for the 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games. The motion was unanimously approved.

- 2018 & 2019 FEI North American Children's, Junior, and Young Rider Championships (NACHJYRC) – Show Jumping

The committee reviewed the materials provided requesting Special Competition status for the standalone 2018 & 2019 FEI North American Children's, Junior and Young Rider Show Jumping Championships to be hosted by Old Salem Farm in both years. It was also noted that the 2018 dates (August 1-5) for Old Salem conflict with another competition within the mileage. Lizzy Chesson from USEF provided additional information not contained within the application and summarized that from among the five host applications received, and despite the unfortunate mileage conflict caused, the Federation's selection committee feels the proposal submitted by Old Salem Farm likely provides the best opportunity for this event to succeed.

*A motion was made and seconded to recommend **approval** of Special Competition status for the standalone 2018 & 2019 FEI NACHJYRC to be hosted by Old Salem Farm. The motion was unanimously approved.*

IX. Old Business
None

X. New Business

A request was made to reconfigure the format of the mileage exemption request materials for future Executive Committee meeting packets in an effort to consolidate the information and reduce the volume of material traditionally provided. A suggestion was made to form a small group to investigate the best method for accomplishing this. Ms. Babick asked the group if the manner in which she verbally presents the summary information to the group is helpful, and the committee members agreed it is. Ms. Babick went on to report that she already prepares a summary document for her personal use prior to each meeting that lists the information for each mileage exemption request in a consolidated format and agreed to share her document with the EC members to determine if its structure will provide helpful information for the committee.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn, and the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m. EST.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Larry Langer, Secretary