UNITED STATES USHJA
HUNTER JUMPER ASSOCIATION™

USHJA Safety Ad Hoc
Monday, February 22, 2021   4pm ET
Teleconference: 888-392-4560   Access Code: 99597

Members Present: Penelope Ayers, Joe Dotoli (Chair), Dr. Sheila Murphy, Dr. Laurel Blakemore, Danielle Santos, Cheryl Rubenstein, Lynn Seithel, and Tracey Weinberg (8)

Members Not Present: Katlynn Sacco (NVA) and Terri Young (4)

Also Present: Whitney Barnard (Committee Liaison) and Jen Bauersachs

I.   **Welcome and Roll Call**
- Joe Dotoli called the meeting to order at 4:00pm ET and Whitney Barnard performed roll call. A quorum was met with voting 8 voting members present.

II.   **Approval of the meeting minutes**
- *There was a motion to approve the minutes from July 21 and December 3, 2020, and the motion passed.*

III.   **Safety Vests**
Ms. Bauersachs joined the meeting and provided some commentary on her accident in 2020. She wanted to take safety precautions regarding her riding but admitted to not doing a lot of research as to the options available for safety vests. She had a fall that caused her to injure ribs and had a collapsed a lung due to the location and shape of the air canister in her air vest. After her accident, she aims to educate more riders about safety vests and researching to find the best one for them and their discipline. She is excited that this committee is looking to research, educate, and encourage improvement in safety vests for hunter/jumper riders.

Committee members agreed that not a lot of information is known about safety vests without the use of body protectors. They voiced concerns including air vests that deploy when a rider forgets to unclip when dismounting, the sudden loud sound of a deploying canister can spook a horse and cause further injury to the rider, and the shape and location of the canisters can cause added injury riders. They agreed that more testing is definitely needed and this committee can work to help educate companies on the need for more testing, regulation, and discipline-specific modifications for targeted use in hunter/jumpers.

The committee considered offering a webinar to educate equestrians and to collect data on their experiences. The committee eventually agreed to send out a survey to help collect

information on individuals' experiences with safety vests and to gather information on changes or developments equestrians would like to see in future vest innovation. Additionally, the committee would like to make the Annual Meeting vest presentation available on the website and via social media for educational purposes. Mr. Dotoli and Ms. Barnard will work together on these next steps.

IV. **Now a Standing Name: New Name and Charter**
The USHJA Board approved Standing Committee status for this committee and requested input on a name and committee charter. Ms. Rubenstein shared an initial draft for consideration. Mr. Dotoli recommended that the committee name and charter reflect safety for all, not just riders. It was suggested to remove "rider" from the submitted draft and for the committee to consider a second draft with a more general audience in mind. Ms. Barnard will share a second version for consideration. There is no specified deadline for the charter but once approved by the committee, it will be sent to the Board for a vote.

V. **Old Business**
- Mr. Dotoli followed up on Dr. Blakemore's survey, however this topic will be pushed to the next meeting.
- There was a request for an update on previous Safety Ad Hoc RCPs submitted and approved by the Board. Mr. Dotoli agreed that those RCP topics will need to be revisited for next steps but this committee will not likely get to them until after COVID restrictions are lifted.
- Mr. Dotoli is pleased to announce that the Virginia Tech helmet initiative is fully funded and the project is full steam ahead! Thank you to this committee for its help with making the project happen!

VI. **New Business**
- There was no new business to discuss.

VII. **Adjourn**
- *There was a motion to adjourn and the meeting adjourned at 5:05pm ET.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Whitney Barnard
USHJA Assistant Managing Director of Education/Committee Liaison