



USHJA Zone 9 Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 20, 2020 - 10:00 a.m. PT/ 1:00 p.m. ET

Committee Members Present: Clare Warren (Chair), Max Von Zimmermann (Vice Chair), Megan Jordan (Treasurer), Nicole Bourgeois, Kathy Hall, Jessie Lang, Martha Price, Gayl Russell, Corey Smith, Nora Thomas, Mary Von Zimmerman and Katherine Wade-Easley. (12)

Committee Members Not Present: Quinn Partridge (EXC.) (1)

Also Present: Morgan Thibodeaux (Sports Program Coordinator), Kristin Rover (Regional Communications Coordinator) and Lynn Johnson (Sports Program Office Aide). (3)

I. Welcome and Roll Call

Ms. Warren called the meeting to order and Ms. Thibodeaux called roll. A quorum was met with twelve committee members present.

II. Approve the minutes

Ms. Von Zimmerman motioned to approve the March 16, 2020 meeting minutes. Ms. Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed with Ms. Hall abstaining.

III. 2021 Zone 9 Specifications

Ms. Warren presented the current 2020 Zone 9 Specifications for discussion/changes. She mentioned changes were made last year to the Adult Amateur Hunter division to allow an A/O rider to show one horse in the AA that they own. No feedback has been received on this change as of yet so keep an eye on any feedback. Ms. Von Zimmerman brought up the Adult Equitation height. It is stated as 2'9" to 3'3". Same for the Childrens. She asked if this was a typo. Ms. Warren stated this was done to cover other shows where Zone members attend that have different heights, such as Canada and California. Juniors in Canada (Thunderbird) are at 3'6". The idea was to allow people who compete at those shows to have their points count. Should the height be changed to 2'9" to 3'6"? Canada is contiguous and many Zone 9 members show there. Discussion ensued regarding the Childrens/ Junior Age Group Equitation Specifications which currently has the height at 2'9" to 3'3". Ms. Thomas stated there are some shows that offer the lower age groups at 2'6" (11 & Under). Does this mean the Pre-Childrens Equitation or Maiden Equitation does not count for points? Ms. Thibodeaux stated the Equitation classes must state an age group in the title for points

to count for HOTY. Ms. Smith suggested the height range for Childrens/Junior Equitation be changed to 2'6" to 3'6". Mr. Von Zimmerman advised that this would be a pretty big height spread and asked if this was very common in other divisions. Discussion was held regarding the different age groups used at different shows. Ms. Thibodeaux shared various other Zone Specifications on this. Other Zones assign a height range to each age group which makes it less broad. For example, Zone 1 uses the following age groups: 11 & Under, 12-14 and 15-17, each with their own height range. The Committee discussed changing the age groups and assigning height ranges to each group. The following was agreed upon: 11 & Under – 2'6" to 3'; 12-14 – 2'9" to 3'; 15-17 – 3' to 3'6". Horse show prize lists MUST state the height of the class for each age group. Combinations will be prohibited for the 11 & Under age group. Ms. Thibodeaux will get this wording corrected for this division and email the draft to all Committee members for a vote by email.

Ms. Russell asked about changes to the Adult Equitation where the height range is currently 2'9" to 3'3". Can that be changed to 2'9" to 3'6"? Discussion followed and the Committee agreed it would open the class up to more exhibitors at those shows offering this at 3'6". *Ms. Russell made a motion to revise the Adult Equitation Zone Specifications for 2021 to change the height range to 2'9" to 3'6". Height at which this division is held MUST be stated in the prize list. Mr. Von Zimmerman seconded this motion. The motion passed with no abstentions.*

Ms. Russell opened the Adult Amateur Jumper Division for discussion. She would like to propose changing the Cross Entry: Rider: to "Rider may not show in any classes where the jumps exceed 1.20m" (currently at 1.15m). This would allow exhibitors with two horses to have more flexibility, encourage improvement and address the issue of some stakes classes being offered at 1.20m. Discussion was held. *Ms. Von Zimmerman made a motion to change the height to 1.20m (as discussed). Ms. Russell seconded the motion. The motion passed with no abstentions.* To provide consistency, *Ms. Jordan made a motion to make the same change to the Children's Jumper specifications. Ms. Von Zimmerman seconded the motion. The motion passed with no abstentions.* Ms. Thibodeaux stated the USHJA Competitive Programs page would be updated to reflect applicable changes for 2021.

IV. Old Business

There was no Old Business to discuss.

V. New Business

Ms. Warren stated she would like to explore a Zone 9 Relief Fund, due to the current pandemic situation and "stay at home" restrictions. She has a client that would donate 500 T-shirts as a fundraiser to collect donations. She wanted to know if the Committee can allocate some amount from the Zone budget, use Gofundme or how can this be done. Zone members could apply for grants from the fund. There are also nonmembers that are a vital part of the horse shows such as braiders, grooms, announcers, in gate workers – would they be able to apply for grants as they are not members? Would a person have to be a USHJA member to apply? Should affiliates handle those

individuals who are not currently members? Ms. Thibodeaux stated she would check with appropriate USHJA staff to determine if they have to be members, if Zone budget funds could be used and what would be the best way for donations to be accepted. She stated USHJA does offer a free Outreach membership. She stated Mary Babick has talked about putting together relief funds on previous virtual Town Hall meetings. Ms. Warren asked if the USHJA Foundation could offer any type of relief fund. Ms. Thibodeaux will check on that. Ms. Thibodeaux will email any information with the Committee that she receives regarding the relief fund questions.

VI. Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 2:01p.m. ET.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Johnson
Sports Program Office Aide