



**UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION, INC.
MID-YEAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
ORIGIN HOTEL – LEXINGTON, KY
JUNE 20-21, 2022**

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Tom O'Mara, Elisabeth Goth, Judy Sloan, Max Amaya, Jacob Arnold, Matt Brown, Ling Fu Wylie, Lisa Gorretta, Deborah Johnson, Mary Knowlton, Carol Kozlowski, Jon Kreitz, Joe Mattingley, Diane Pitts, and Judy Werner

Board Members Absent: Alex Boone, Alison Brock, Lauren Nicholson, Philip Richter, Richard Spooner, Chester Weber

USEF Senior Team Present: Bill Moroney, Mike Delahanty, Terri Dolan, Sonja Keating, Vicki Lowell, Lisa Owens, Justin Provost, Debbie Saliling, and Stephen Schumacher

Others Present: Patrick Wolfe, Chair of the USEF Technology Task Force; Patrick McNerney, Consultant

1. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

Mr. O'Mara called the Mid-Year meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. EDT. Following a call of the roll, Ms. Adams noted that a quorum was present.

2. Adoption of the Revised Agenda

Ms. Gorretta moved, and Ms. Goth seconded the motion to adopt the revised agenda as circulated. There was no further discussion and the motion to adopt the agenda as amended carried unanimously.

3. President's Opening Remarks

Mr. O'Mara welcomed Board members and thanked them for traveling to Lexington for the meeting. He stated that this is a busy time for all our breeds and disciplines with several finals and championships coming up over the summer months. Further, while the overall economy is going through major changes, USEF will be diligent in monitoring the financial environment and will remain flexible to facilitate taking appropriate action, as needed.

He quoted the American Horse Council press release in support of the Amateur rule changes and call to action to other horse organizations to review their amateur participation rules and adjust them as necessary to ensure the continued participation of youth and amateur constituents. Last, Mr. O'Mara shared the obituary of former-Board member, athlete, and Para-Equestrian Affiliate President Hope Hand. The Directors observed a moment of silence in remembrance of her and all the work she had done to further the sport of Para Equestrian.

4. Conflict of Interest Declaration

Ms. Keating requested that Directors declare conflicts with any item on the agenda. Mr. O'Mara declared a conflict with agenda item 24. No other conflicts were declared.

5. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – May 9, 2022

Ms. Sloan moved, and Ms. Goth seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the May 9, 2022, Board meeting. After discussion and a vote, the motion passed with Ms. Kozlowski and Ms. Werner abstaining as they were not present at this meeting.

6. Presidential Modification Report

A summary of Presidential Modifications granted since the May Board meeting was presented to Directors for informational purposes.

7. Ratify Board Ad Hoc Group actions

Mr. Mattingley moved, and Mr. Kreitz seconded the motion to ratify the actions of the Ad Hoc Selections Groups and FEI Calendar Groups as presented and required under Board approved Resolutions 2020-02 and 2020-08. After discussion and vote, the motion passed unanimously.

8. Technology Task Force Report

Patrick Wolfe, Chair of the Task Force, presented the Board with the work it has done over the past four months noting that the Task Force was charged with identifying, analyzing, and recommending technology opportunities to better serve our members and increase efficiencies. He outlined the following discussions: Project 21; cloud-based data storage and analytics; and USEF streaming Network. The focus areas of the task force include a competition entry system, real-time scoring, and new mobile apps. The next areas of discussion include fantasy sports, video analytics and coaching, automation in sport, and blockchain and smart contracts.

9. Treasurer Report & Review of Q2 Financials

Ms. Sloan reported that our financials continue to exceed budget to date and noted that variances on both the revenue and expense sides are due to timing which will correct over the next couple of months. She noted that COVID and market challenges will be with us for some time, and the organization is employing more contingency-based financial modeling to ensure any necessary adjustments can be implemented. Due to the recent market fluctuations, particular attention will be placed on reviewing impacts related to the 2008 financial crisis to be better prepared to address any market challenges that arise.

Mr. Delahanty presented the May 2022 financials noting that the timing of funding from both the USOPC and USET Foundation, and from sponsors account for the timing on May financials which should correct on the June financials. Further, the March EHV-1 outbreak on the west coast likely accounts for the lower numbers during that time period. He noted that on the balance sheet, the amounts approved from 2021 surplus to balance the budget are included. Last, he stated that we are pleased with the good performance from financial advisor on our investment portfolio, and we are discussing a short-term cash investment into Treasury bonds with Clear Harbor now that interest rates are on the rise.

10. CEO Report

Mr. Moroney expanded on his written report highlighting: the Show Pass concept, the work of the Amateur Task Force and the Competition Task Force, Affiliate and Education Partner agreements, In-person Affiliate leadership and Roundtable meetings, the active COVID Action Plan, EHV updates,

Staffing, Calendar management in California and Florida, Endurance and Eventing, and BIG initiatives which will be more thoroughly discussed on Day 2.

10.1 Final Show Pass recommendation

Mr. Moroney explained that following the November 2021 Board meeting the concept was approved, with requests to return with information on Safe Sport training exemptions and the workload for Competition secretaries. Mr. Mattingley moved, and Ms. Goth seconded the motion to approve that a Show Pass may be utilized only one time per competition year for a rider or owner and a trainer or coach must be a USEF member. The Board requested that automation or further communication be sent to those that have utilized their annual Show Pass with information on how to become a member and how to complete the Safe Sport training.

11. International Disciplines Council Report

Council Chair Mr. Mattingley stated that he will focus more deliberately on how the Council can link to the strategic plan with staff support on the backside for success. There were no questions or comments.

12. National Breeds & Non-FEI Disciplines Council Report

Ms. Dolan, staff liaison to this Council, had nothing additional to add to the report presented. There were no comments or questions.

13. Member Services Council Report

Mr. Moroney reported that the Council discussed a DEI initiative on the use of pronouns within the USEF Rule Book. Ms. Keating stated that she will address this issue and bring it back to the Board once ready.

14. Approval of the 2022 Athlete Election Timeline

Ms. Goth moved, and Ms. Gorretta seconded approval of the 2022 timeline for athlete elections. Ms. Keating noted that Mr. Connell and Ms. Brock, AAC Chair were consulted on the timeline and approved. After discussion and vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The Board recessed at 3:10 p.m. and resumed discussion at 3:30 p.m.

15. Consideration of Bylaw Amendments

Mr. Mattingley moved, and Ms. Goth seconded approval of the Bylaw amendments and additional amendments located in the Errata sheet as presented. Following discussion and a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

16. Consideration of Policies

16.1 Adoption of Decision-Making Matrix

Ms. Pitts moved, and Ms. Goth seconded the motion to approve the Decision-Making Matrix. Ms. Keating stated that she will remove the Member column and add in the newly approved Executive Committee duties and would recirculate the final matrix. Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

16.2 Adoption of the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competition Policy

Ms. Goth moved, and Ms. Sloan seconded the motion to approve the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competition Policy. Ms. Keating stated that the policy was drafted to protect the credibility and integrity of our sport and to keep pace with best practices. With the growing fantasy sports and gaming market, it is important to get a policy implemented that will protect our

participants and the sport. The policy was created to ensure the protection of fairness and integrity in all levels of equestrian sport, and it aligns with the FEI's position on gaming and wagering. After discussion and a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

16.3 Amendments to Conflict of Interest and Gifts & Entertainment Policy

Ms. Gorretta moved, and Mr. Arnold seconded the motion to approve the Conflict of Interest and Gifts & Entertainment policy amendments. Ms. Keating stated that only non-substantive changes were made as requested by the USOPC for best practices. Following discussion and vote, the motion passed unanimously.

17. Consideration of Rule Change Proposals

17.1 FEI Rule Change

Tracking ID# 207-21

Ms. Goth moved, and Ms. Gorretta seconded the motion to approve the FEI rule change to JP123.4d. There was no comment and the motion passed unanimously.

17.2 Extraordinary Rule Changes

Ms. Goth moved, and Mr. Arnold seconded the motion to put both extraordinary rule changes on the floor for consideration. All agreed and the motion passed unanimously.

Tracking ID# 195-21

Following discussion and vote, the motion to approve this rule change to DC905.1 which outlines the process for results protests and appeals in Combined Driving passed unanimously.

Tracking ID# 198-21

After discussion and a vote, the motion to approve this rule change to JP111.10 which states the protocol for a rider who loses their headgear during a Jumping round passed unanimously. It was suggested that all breeds and disciplines look at their helmet/headgear rules.

17.3 Standard Rule Changes

17.3a Consent to Refer to July Board Meeting

Mr. Brown moved, and Mr. Kreitz seconded the motion to approve the Consent to Refer to July Board Meeting Calendar. Mr. Moroney noted that this calendar contains the rewrite of the Eventing Chapter and one Jumping rule change. There was no comment and the motion passed unanimously.

17.3b Consent Approve Calendar

Mr. Mattingley moved, and Mr. Kreitz seconded the motion to approve the Consent to Approve Calendar. There was no comment and the motion passed unanimously.

17.3c Consent Disapprove Calendar

Mr. Mattingley moved, and Mr. Kreitz seconded the motion to approve the Consent to Disapprove Calendar. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

17.3d Voting Calendar

Ms. Goth moved, and Mr. Kreitz seconded the motion put all rules on the Voting calendar on the floor for discussion and approval. There was no dissent and the motion passed unanimously.

Tracking ID# 105-21

Following discussion and vote, the motion to approve the rule change to DR119.1 outlining Open Dressage classes passed, with Ms. Fu Wylie, Ms. Johnson, and Ms. Werner against.

Tracking ID# 039-21

Following discussion and vote, the motion to approve the rule change to GR1041.6 regarding Open Dressage classes with the language from the Errata sheet passed, with Ms. Goth abstaining. The proposed language in GR1041.6b and GR1211.3.a.2 with reference to class scheduling and horse entry restrictions does not belong in Chapters 10 or 12 and will be removed.

Tracking ID# 131-21

Ms. Knowlton requested approval with the following amendment: *In a Jumping Seat Equitation class, a **single judge** ~~may not judge~~ **is not permitted to officiate and operate the electronic timer simultaneously.*** Ms. Knowlton moved, and Ms. Pitts seconded the motion to approve this rule change as amended. Following discussion and vote, the motion to approve the amended rule change to EQ102.12 outlining the duties of a single judge passed unanimously.

Tracking ID# 010-21

Ms. Goth moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded the motion to amend this rule change removing AR108.f from the proposed changes. Following discussion and vote, the motion to approve the amended rule change to GR833.6 outlining that Stewards must be able to attend to other duties at competitions passed unanimously.

Tracking ID# 029-21

Ms. Gorretta moved, and Mr. Kreitz seconded the motion to refer the rule change to GR1005.3 regarding SafeSport training and licensed officials to the July Board meeting. Following discussion and vote, the motion g passed unanimously.

Tracking ID# 008-21

Following discussion and vote, the motion to approve the amended rule change to GR1210.13 regarding alignment of expectations of Federation Steward and Technical Delegates to include the language from the Errata sheet passed unanimously.

Tracking ID# 060-21

The following amendment was proposed: *The Federation is required to provide competition stewards **and Technical Delegates** with some form of discernable identification (such as a badge with lanyard) which must be worn at **the** competition by **the official.*** Ms. Knowlton moved, and Mr. Mattingley seconded the motion to approve the amended rule change to GR1211.3 outlining identification of stewards and TDs at competitions. Following discussion and vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Tracking ID# 171-21

Ms. Goth moved, and Ms. Sloan seconded the motion to refer the rule change to FR101.1 regarding IFSHA membership completed paperwork deadline prior to competing to the July Board meeting passed unanimously. Staff will follow up with the Friesian affiliate on their intent and possible rewording of sections of this rule change.

Tracking ID# 128-21

Following discussion and a vote, the motion to approve this rule change to HJ107.1 regarding offering a means of motorized transportation for stewards passed unanimously.

Tracking ID# 031-21

Ms. Haydon outlined the approved language requested by the IDC to JP124.1: *A rail . . . 18mm (.7") minimum and a depth of ~~2030~~mm (.79") (~~1.18"~~) for maximum **depth of cup**. For planks . . . flat, but not deeper than **12 mm** (1/2")*. Mr. Amaya moved, and Mr. Kreitz seconded the motion to approve this rule change to breakaway cups as amended. Following discussion and vote, the motion to approve the amended portion of this rule change in JP124.1 passed unanimously.

Tracking ID# 127-21

Ms. Knowlton requested approval with the following amendment to keep point 4 without changes: *~~No Credit will be given in combined sections even if~~ **unless less than three entries have competed***. Ms. Knowlton moved, and Ms. Pitts seconded the motion to approve this rule change as amended. Following discussion and vote, the motion to approve this amended rule change to HU136.1 outlining credit and number of entries passed unanimously.

Tracking ID# 129-21

After discussion and a vote, the motion to approve this rule change to HU143.2 outlining horse measurement at competitions passed unanimously.

Tracking ID# 130-21

Following discussion and a vote, the motion to approve this rule change to HU162.5 regarding a lower number of entries at rated shows in the Junior Hunter section passed unanimously.

Tracking ID# 167-21

Ms. Knowlton moved, and Ms. Goth seconded the motion to refer this rule change to JP138.3 regarding the procedures for timing if a safety vest deploys until the July Board meeting. After thorough discussion and vote, the motion passed unanimously.

18. Old Business

Mr. O'Mara reminded Board members that Board training is a requirement. Those that have not yet completed this training have received a reminder and may follow up with Ms. Keating with questions.

19. New Business

There was no new business.

The Board concluded discussion and recessed at 5:20 p.m. The Board resumed the meeting in Executive session, the following day, June 21, 2022 beginning at 8:10 for the following topics: Legal/Litigation Update, Strategic Plan Review, Approval of Pegasus App Relationship and Investment, Approval of formation of USEF Subsidiary, and Approval of USEFNetwork Strategic partnership.

The meeting adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

The Board reconvened in closed session at 8:10 a.m. on June 21, 2022, with all Board members in attendance on June 20, 2022, present. USEF Staff members Mr. Moroney, Ms. Keating, and Mr. Provost remained in the meeting.

The following topics were discussed.

- 20. Legal and Litigation Update**
- 21. Strategic Plan Review**
- 22. Approval of Pegasus App Relationship and Investment**
- 23. USEF Subsidiary(ies)**
- 24. Approval of USEFNetwork Strategic Partnership**

- 25. Adjourn**

At the conclusion of Executive Session, the meeting adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

Signed and submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Adams", written in a cursive style.

Karen Adams
Recording Secretary