

USDF EXECUTIVE BOARD (EB) MEETING

Teleconference – January 30, 2024

This document is edited for posting on the USDF website and is not the official or complete version of the minutes of this meeting.

Members Present:

George Williams, President	Kevin Reinig, Vice President
Debra Reinhardt, Secretary	Lorraine Musselman, Treasurer
Bettina Longaker, Region 1 Director	Debby Savage, Region 2 Director
Charlotte Trentelman, Region 3 Director	Anne Sushko, Region 4 Director
Heather Petersen, Region 5 Director	Noah Rattner, Region 6 Director
Carol Tice, Region 7 Director	Helen van der Voort, Region 8 Director
Bess Bruton, Region 9 Director	Susan Mandas, Activities Council Director
Sue McKeown, Technical Council Director	Anne Snipes Moss, Administrative Council Director

Members Absent: Kevin Reinig joined the meeting at 6:17pm

Staff Attending: Sarah Garn, Ross Creech, Connie Huy, Kathie Robertson, Stephan Hienzsch, Melissa Schoedlbauer, Sharon Vander Ziel, Krystina Wright

Guest in attendance: None

The meeting commenced at 6:00 p.m. EST by Zoom teleconference.

Determination of quorum, roll call and conflicts of interest

Approval of agenda

Noah Rattner moved and Helen van der Voort seconded **to approve the agenda**. Motion carried.

President's remarks

This is the first EB meeting with the revised transparency policy in the USDF Policies and Procedures in effect. In compliance with the policy, information was distributed to delegates in a timely manner before this meeting. Lorraine Musselman moved and Carol Tice seconded **to approve the removal of the committee rosters (for agenda item #6) from the materials released to delegates because the appointments have not yet been accepted**. Motion carried.

Executive Director's remarks

Three positions are currently open at USDF; one in education, one in membership, and one in the competitions department. The positions have been posted and are being interviewed for. These are additional positions or positions that did not fill a long time ago. They are in the approved budget.

There were 325 attendees at the Adequan®/USDF FEI-Level Trainer Conference. Surveys are still being reviewed, but feedback received at the conference was that Sven Rothenberger and Sabine Schut-Kery were a great pair who were not afraid to take on the hard questions.

Review of 2024 committee rosters

There was discussion that the committees seem to be heavily populated by the east coast or one region makes up the majority on some committees. We need to make the committee chairs aware and try to get representation across the country. Many ideas were presented and further research and discussion will be ongoing on presenting opportunities for new people to join committees.

a) One EB appointment to Bylaws Committee

- Heather Petersen moved and Carol Tice seconded **to appoint Bess Bruton to the Bylaws Committee.** Motion carried. Bess Bruton abstained.

b) Approval of rosters with more than ten members

- Instructor/Trainer Development Program – The members are faculty members except for Fern Feldman who has been a huge supporter and active member of this committee.
- L Program Committee – The members are faculty members.
- Sport Horse Committee – The committee is trying to bring on new members. Natalie DiBerardinis is very active and was co-chair of the committee. Jen Vanover from Region 8 holds breeder competitions and is a very active breeder. This committee does a lot of work with at least five meetings a year.

Sue Mandas moved and Debby Savage seconded **to approve the rosters with more than ten committee members.** Motion carried.

Appointment of members to the Rules Advisory Working Group (RAWG)

Debra Reinhardt moved and Heather Petersen seconded **to recommend to the chair, Michelle King, the following members for the RAWG: Michelle King remains chair; members would be Amy Swerdlin, Jean Kraus, Kristi Wysocki, Sue McKeown, and Teresa Stewart, with Lisa Gorretta as advisor.** Motion carried. Sue McKeown abstained.

North American Youth Championships (NAYC) end of qualifying period

As it stands now, June 17, 2024 is the end of the qualifying period for NAYC. This was moved a week earlier from last year because the NAYC competition was moved one week earlier. Laura Roberts of the USEF has had discussions with the FEI and the organizing committee of the competition. It is proposed to change the end of the qualifying period for NAYC from June 17, 2024 to June 24, 2024. This move would allow twelve qualifying competitions. Debby Savage moved and Helen van der Voort seconded **to approve June 24, 2024 as the new end of the NAYC qualification period.** Motion carried. The affected competitions will be notified so they can alter their prize list.

L Faculty application and application protocol clarifications

Bess Bruton moved and Charlotte Trentelman seconded **to approve the L faculty application and application protocol clarifications.** Motion carried.

Update on 2024 US Dressage Finals and 2025 site

Stephan Hienzsch, Lisa Gorretta and Debra Reinhardt conducted a site visit of the World Equestrian Center (WEC) in Wilmington, OH at the beginning of January, and the US Dressage Finals Organizing Committee met right after. WEC Ohio is a viable facility to have the US Dressage Finals, but there are many additional considerations.

The US Dressage Finals Organizing Committee recommends remaining at the Kentucky Horse Park for 2024 and to continue to explore WEC Ohio as a possibility in the future.

GMO requests for guidance regarding Safe Sport

The office surveyed attendees of the Safe Sport session held at the convention. Comments indicated they found the session extremely valuable, but have more questions than answers. We need to follow that session up with a mentoring session. What are the most compelling topics of importance and interest? USDF is looking to USEF for resources to repackage/repurpose to address best practices for GMOs with follow up via webinars. Regional Directors and the office will reach out to the GMOs to try to get their main concerns, needs, and questions.

New Business/Miscellaneous

L Education Program Faculty Final Approval

The L Program Committee recommends that Kari McClain be approved as L Program Faculty. Heather Petersen moved and Noah Rattner seconded **to approve Kari McClain as L Program Faculty**. Motion carried.

USDF Instructor/Trainer Development Program, exam coach initiative

As a FYI to the EB, the USDF Instructor/Trainer Development Program wants to provide supportive education to participants to improve their skills and knowledge for instructor certification, or to improve specific areas where participants did not pass by making a connection to an exam coach, who can mentor the candidate.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Reinhardt
USDF Secretary