

## USDF EXECUTIVE BOARD (EB) MEETING

Teleconference – February 13, 2023

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### **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	Barbara Cadwell, Administrative Council Director

### **Members Absent:** None

**Staff Attending:** Stephan Hienzsch, Kathie Robertson, Cristen Brown, Connie Huy, Sarah Garn, Krystina Wright, Ross Creech, Melissa Schoedlbauer, Lacy Jinks

**Guest in attendance:** Michelle King, Lisa Gorretta

The meeting commenced at 5:04 p.m. EST by Zoom teleconference.

### **Determination of quorum, roll call and conflicts of interest**

#### **Approval of agenda**

Heather Petersen moved and Noah Rattner seconded **to approve the agenda**. Motion carried.

### **USDF Rules Advisory Working Group (RAWG) feedback on current proposed rule changes – Kathie Robertson, Michelle King**

*(NOTE: The RAWG recommendations and the acceptance or approval of those recommendations by the Executive Board is only in the context of submitting recommendations and providing affiliate feedback to USEF.)*

Michelle King, chair of the RAWG, joined the meeting.

DR129.9 – Minor changes to 9a; Sue McKeown moved and Bess Bruton seconded **to recommend these USEF rule changes with the edits**. Motion carried.

The following USEF rule change proposals (effective 12/1/2023) were reviewed by the USDF RAWG.

Sue McKeown moved and Heather Petersen seconded **to accept the proposed rules with comments from the RAWG with the following minor corrections, except GR1101.1, Tracking #036-22, which will be done separately.** *(corrections are noted in blue font)*  
**GR 801.2; tracking 030-22**

**Last sentence of the comments** – This expansion will prevent many competitors from outside the USA inadvertently being in non-compliance with USEF rules because they are wearing European manufactured helmets that pass testing which is **considered** even more vigorous than the SEI/ASTM testing.

**GR 846.2; tracking 038-22**

Add sentence to the end of comments - **Moreover, the Safety Coordinator may not even be aware of the accident or incident within the one-hour reporting requirement. We would approve this RCP if the wording were changed to address these concerns.**

**GR 1012.1; tracking 034-22**

Protecting the safety and welfare of both competitors and their horses is of course of the utmost importance. However, the creation of a new category of licensed official – a Safety and Welfare Steward, is unnecessary to accomplish this responsibility **for dressage competitions. Dressage rules currently provide for** additional TDs at large competition. **Our TDs**, who currently hold this responsibility, receive a significant amount of training to perform these tasks effectively and for the most part, these responsibilities are being expertly handled. If certain areas of competitions such as lunging are consistently giving rise to safety concerns, the more effective way to address these concerns would be through RCPs detailing exact requirement for these areas. This proposal would have a negative impact on the sport as it will result in increased costs for competitions and this cost would not be offset by the creation of what would, in effect, be a junior TD or Steward, without anywhere close to the level of training. **For these reasons, USDF disapproves of this proposal.**

**GR 1215.5; tracking 033-22**

While we support the **concept of trying to provide adequate rest for horses at competitions**, this proposal as written presents a number of health, safety **and enforcement** concerns. Some facilities will deem it necessary to lock the light switches/boxes to ensure compliance and this will present serious problems in the event of a horse emergency or even an owner doing a late-night barn check. **It would also make it either impossible or unsafe to perform the night checks required at certain competitions.** At other locations, where the facility may prohibit locking of the lighting, it will be impossible to guarantee compliance. ~~Instead, we recommend that the provision be revised to require limited low/environment lighting during certain hours and that the hours be adjusted to accommodate the possibility of very early or late classes, for example, 2 hours before the first class and 2 hours after the last class or from 12-5, whichever is later.~~

Motion carried.

Debra Reinhardt moved and Helen van der Voort seconded **to agree with RAWG's comments on GR1101.1, Tracking #036-22.**

After discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

**GR 1101; tracking 036-22**

~~This proposal will have a significant adverse impact on the growth of the equestrian disciplines/activities governed by USEF, which in turn will have a significant adverse impact on organizations and individuals who run licensed competitions. The price of just owning a horse has increased tremendously over the last several years and those price increases have certainly been felt by competitors of licensed competitions. Rather than welcoming new members to the joy of~~

~~horses and all that USEF has to offer, if enacted, this additional requirement will drive away members from either joining USEF and/or from competing in licensed competitions.~~

**USDF disapproves of this proposal as currently written. However, we would support the proposal if it were amended to a simple, clear-cut implementation deadline with no phase in period, which we believe will only lead to confusion.**

Debra Reinhardt moved and Helen van der Voort seconded **to state that the USDF Executive Board is not in favor as the rule is currently written. However, the board would be in favor with change in 10a of the rule to simply implement a deadline without transition period.** Motion carried.

Heather Petersen moved and Bess Bruton seconded **to accept all the proposed rules recommendations which RAWG had no comment.** Motion carried. Michelle King left the meeting.

**USDF Regional Schooling Show Awards Program Advisory Task Force – Cristen Brown, Lisa Gorretta**

Lisa Gorretta joined the call. Based on the data provided, there was a short discussion on how the program was doing. It was felt that the task force should pass this award program to a committee. A recommendation for EB approval will be forthcoming. Lisa left the meeting.

**Regional Championship AA/Jr/YR combined Freestyle class – Krystina Wright, George Williams**

Debby Savage moved and Kevin Reinig seconded **to move the Jr/YR into Open FS division at the regional championships starting in 2023. AA will have their own division.** Motion carried. Heather Petersen and Lorraine Musselman abstained.

**2025 convention contract – Connie Huy**

Sue McKeown moved and Noah Rattner seconded **for USDF to contract with the hotel in Lexington for the 2025 convention.** Motion carried.

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m. EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Reinhardt  
USDF Secretary