

OHJA Board of Directors Meeting

December 15, 2008

Members attending: Matt Payne, Frankie Stark, Erica Staib, Kathy Valentine, Anne Thornbury, Skip Thornbury, Scott Dehelian, Jeremy Sims, Jamie Barkhau, Maureen Fagan.

1. Windfall/Beckett Run horse show dates. There has been confusion with the rollback of dates. Erica had added a show two years ago when there was an open weekend, which now conflicts with other current horse show dates. Erica will work on re-arranging her schedule and will get with Kathy, Beckett Run and Lochmoor will rollback like they are supposed to and Erica will work around that.
2. Jeremy Sims had a student/member competing in the intermediate children's equitation division and was working towards year-end awards. In November they were looking for a show or two to get a few more points and went to Limerick Lane due to the extra classes they offered. After looking at the final standings, the parent realized that her child did not end up year end champion, even with the extra points, because the other children that showed at those shows all season seemed to have an unfair advantage over the other competitors, and they were the riders to end up in the top of the results. The parent then decided that the idea of extra classes was not a good one and requested that the board look into the fairness of the system.

At this time, there is no rule limiting the number of equitation classes a manager can offer at a particular show. Classes cannot be added to an already existing schedule but if the extra classes (i.e. more than the usual 2, one flat, one over jumps) are on the original schedule sent out to all potential exhibitors, then no current rule is broken. Most board members did not have a problem with having more than the standard 2 classes as it gave exhibitors more classes to compete in.

3. In regards to the number of entries required to allow management to split classes. We follow the USHJA/USEF rules requiring there to be a minimum of 3 entries to complete the division but there are no recommendations for when it is appropriate to split classes due to "large" numbers of entries. Apparently some show managers (possibly at the encouragement of exhibitors/trainers) will split out divisions as soon as the minimum fill number is met. The splits appear to be done randomly with no consistency. Some board members felt that the splits should not be done with such small numbers. Some also felt that if split, it should be done by age, others felt the "California" or A/B split is more fair. Some felt it should be left to the show manager's discretion according to the entries. This topic was tabled for further discussion.

4. Frankie Stark is going to do some research on the potential USHJA rule change that involves money won versus points for an awards system.
5. There was some discussion about the children's pony division. That will be discussed next meeting.
6. Jeremy Sims is in charge of getting as many of the perpetual trophies replaced by the original sponsors or getting new sponsors. The new trophies will hopefully be replaced in time to be awarded at this year's banquet.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne Thornbury