



**UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
NOVEMBER 13, 2023
3:00 P.M. EST**

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Tom O'Mara, Judy Werner, Judy Sloan, Max Amaya, Jacob Arnold, Ellie Brimmer, Allison Brock, Matt Brown, Ling Fu Wylie, Lisa Gorretta, Deborah Johnson, Mary Knowlton, Carol Kozlowski, Jon Kreitz, Joe Mattingley, Melissa Moore, Diane Pitts, and Chester Weber

Board Members Absent: Lauren Nicholson and Philip Richter

USEF Senior Team Present: Bill Moroney, Kelly Bolton, Mike Delahanty, Terri Dolan, Hallye Griffin, Vicki Lowell, Lisa Owens, Justin Provost, Debbie Saliling, and Stephen Schumacher

Other Staff Present: Anna Brooks Thomas, Sarah Hollander, Kristen Brett, and Gemma Stobbs

1. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

Mr. O'Mara called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. EST. Following a call of the roll, Ms. Adams noted that a quorum was present.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Ms. Pitts moved, and Mr. Kreitz seconded the motion to adopt the agenda. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

3. President's Opening Remarks

Mr. O'Mara stated that the budgeting process continues to get better and more efficient. He noted that our business innovation group initiatives are making headway with the start of our coaching education program, and development of the USEF branded events and series, with more detail to be presented at the Annual meeting. This past week was Community Outreach week with great coverage of the 27 organizations in 18 states by our Marketing team. End of year National Championships are finishing up just as we head into our Affiliate convention season in late November into December.

He reported that the Pan American Games concluded after two weeks of great sport for our Olympic disciplines. Team USA earned seven medals across the three disciplines with Jumping earning its qualification to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. Several USOPC staff leaders, including the Chairman of the Board, attended equestrian events as well as many of the FEI Board members.

4. Conflict of Interest Declaration

Mr. O'Mara requested that Directors declare conflicts with any item on the agenda. Mr. O'Mara and Mr. Amaya stated that they had a conflict with agenda item 11.1. There were no additional conflicts declared.

5. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – September 18, 2023

Ms. Sloan moved, and Ms. Brimmer seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the Board meeting held on September 18, 2023. Following discussion and a vote, the minutes were approved with Ms. Kozlowski and Mr. Weber abstaining.

6. Approval of the 2024 Proposed Budget and Budget Appendix

Ms. Kozlowski moved, and Ms. Sloan seconded approval of the 2024 budget and budget appendix. This approval also included the projects identified in the budget appendix, both to be funded by reserves.

Ms. Sloan thanked the staff for all their hard work in preparing our largest budget to date and that it was prepared with the appropriate level of conservancy. Mr. Delahanty stated that the 2024 budget is just over \$37MM, and all three Councils and the Budget and Finance Committee recommended approval by the Board. He noted that the Investment Committee is working with our asset management team at Clear Harbor to shift the portfolio allocations to maximize our returns.

Following thorough discussion and vote, the motion passed unanimously.

7. Proposed Rule Changes

7.1 Extraordinary Rule Changes

Ms. Knowlton moved, and Ms. Kozlowski seconded a motion to approve all eight extraordinary rule changes, the single FEI rule change, and the referred rule change. Following discussion and vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The five rule changes below were presented individually and following a vote, passed unanimously.

<u>Tracking ID#</u>	<u>Rule</u>	<u>Description</u>
046-23	GR310.1	Consideration for Lite competition prize money over \$500
048-23	GR905.4	Fan status for all competitors exempt from membership
049-23	DR121.6	Hanging cheek (baucher) snaffle measurement change
050-23	GR901.8	Requirement to provide contact details for show Veterinarian
051-23	HU160.2	Prize money minimum only calculated in cash, not in-kind prizes

Tracking ID# 120-22

Ms. Gorretta moved, and Ms. Sloan seconded the motion to amend this rule change to GR838.5 by replacing language in the first line of the rule change in bold red type as recommended by the IDC. Following discussion and a vote, the motion to amend this rule change passed unanimously.

Any action(s) against a horse by a competitor, ~~coach, groom, trainer,~~ or an exhibitor **any person** which are deemed excessive by a Federation judge, Federation steward, technical delegate, or competition veterinarian, in the competition ring or anywhere on the competition grounds **or evidence of action(s) described above on a horse on competition grounds** may be punished by official warning or elimination ~~which may be deemed appropriate by the Show Committee~~. Such action(s) could include, but are not limited to, excessive **or inappropriate** use of **equipment, including but not limited to** the whip or spurs. **Evidence may include raw, bleeding, or irritated skin, or welts consistent with excessive use or inappropriate use of equipment.**

Tracking ID# 047-23

Following discussion, the motion to approve this proposed rule change to GR310.7 regarding Horse entry threshold eligibility for Lite competitions passed with Ms. Gorretta abstaining.

Tracking ID #052-23

After thorough discussion and a vote, the motion to approve this amended rule change as noted below to GR108 amending the definition of a coach with individual must be on the competition grounds passed with Ms. Pitts abstaining.

For the purposes of these rules, a coach is defined as any adult or adults **on the competition grounds** who ~~receives remuneration for having or sharing~~ **has or shares** the responsibility for instructing, teaching, schooling, or advising a rider, driver, handler, or vaulter in equestrian skills. See also ~~GR906.4~~ and GR908.

7.2 FEI Rule Change

Tracking ID #053-23

After discussion and a vote, the motion to approve this FEI rule change to DR307.4 aligning the compensating aids chart with FEI rule references passed unanimously.

7.3 Referred Rule Change

Tracking ID# 183-22

Following discussion and vote, the motion to approve this rule change to AR106.11 regarding the use of a tongue stabilizer in the Arabian division referred from the 2023 Mid-Year Board meeting passed unanimously.

8. Sport Requests

8.1 Approval of the 2025 FEI Driving World Championship for Combined Ponies Selection Procedures

8.2 Approval of the 2025 FEI Driving World Championship for Single Ponies Selection Procedures

8.3 Approval of the 2025 FEI Driving World Championship for Pair Horses Selection Procedures

Ms. Sloan moved, and Ms. Fu Wylie seconded approval of the selection procedures for the 2025 FEI Driving World Championship for Combined Ponies, Single Ponies, and Pair Horses. After discussion and vote, the motion passed with Mr. Arnold abstaining.

8.4 Approval of the 2024 USEF Dressage European Young Rider Tour Selection Procedures

8.5 Approval of the 2024 Dressage European U-25 Tour Selection Procedures

8.6 Approval of the 2024 FEI North American Youth Championships Dressage Selection Procedures

8.7 Approval of the 2024 FEI North American Youth Championships U-25 Dressage Selection Procedures

Ms. Gorretta moved, and Mr. Kreitz seconded approval of the selection procedures for the 2024 European Young Rider Tour and U25 Tour for Dressage, as well as the 2024 FEI North American Youth Championships for Dressage in Junior, Young Rider, and U25 divisions. Following discussion and a vote, the motion to approve these four Dressage procedures passed unanimously.

8.8 Approval of the 2024 Eventing European Tour Nations Cup Selection Procedures

8.9 Approval of the 2024 Olympic Games Eventing Selection Procedures

Ms. Pitts moved, and Ms. Kozlowski seconded approval of the selection procedures for the 2024 Eventing European Tour Nations Cup and the 2024 Olympic Games. After discussion and a vote, the motion passed with Mr. Brown abstaining.

9. Old Business

There was no old business.

10. New Business

There was no new business.

11. Executive Session

At 4:28 p.m. Mr. O'Mara requested that all staff except Mr. Moroney and Ms. Keating leave the meeting for an executive session of the board. Mr. O'Mara excused himself due to his declared conflict and Mr. Amaya left the call prior to the start of this discussion.

11.1 Consideration of Presidential Stipend

Ms. Sloan moved, and Ms. Werner seconded a motion to approve a \$50,000 increase annually in the reasonable compensation for the USEF President. After discussion and a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

12. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:39 p.m. EST.

Signed and submitted:



Karen Adams
Recording Secretary