



USAWE Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: October 26, 2022

Meeting Time: 5:00 p.m. Pacific, 6:00 p.m. Mountain, 7:00 p.m. Central, 8:00 p.m. Eastern

Meeting Modality: Zoom

Board Members Present		Board Members Absent at Roll Call	
President	Barbara Price		
President Elect	Olga Hendrickson		
Secretary	Julie Alonzo		
Treasurer	Erin O'Shaughnessy		
At Large Director 1	Trisha Kiefer-Reed		
At Large Director 2	Doreen Atkinson		
R1 Director	Heather Humelbaugh		
R2 Director	Robin Bond		
R3 Director	Chris Stanko		
R4 Director	Kiki Pantaze		
R5 Director	Becky Sherven		
R6 Director	Kimberley Hillyer		
R7 Director	Rebecca Algar		

Current # of Board members = 13. BOD members required for Quorum = 7. # of BOD members in attendance at roll call = 13. Quorum was established.

USAWE Board Members in Attendance After Roll Call: NA

USAWE Adult Members in attendance for all or part of the meeting:

Jeanne Bond, Rules Committee Chair & R6 Member

Christy Reich, LOC Committee Co-Chair & R2 Member

Bridgett Klingler, Awards Committee Chair & R1 Member

Leslie Martien, R3 Member

Kristine Strasburger, Affiliate Organization Coordinator & R3 Member

Kris Blacklock, R5 Member

President Price called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM, Pacific time.

RULES COMMITTEE

Prior to the Board meeting, the Rules Committee had provided the Board with their proposed changes to the rules. Several Board members provided feedback in advance of the meeting, with the Rules committee making some revisions in response to this feedback.



Secretary Julie Alonzo made a motion:

Motion: Approve the United States Rules for Working Equitation, Revision 6, effective January 1, 2023, with the following modification to the Conflict of Interest section regarding Judges: allow judges to provide group instruction within the 30-day window prior to a competition, provided the instruction is limited to people showing at Level 1. Auditing shall not be limited.

Motion was seconded by Barbara Price, President.

The Rules Committee had proposed removing the option for judges to provide group instruction in the time period 30-days prior to a competition at which they were officiating.

This proposed change prompted a lot of discussion both prior to the Board meeting (via email) and at the meeting itself.

Some Board members expressed strong concern that not allowing judges to provide clinics before the show would present a large burden for small competitions, where clinic fees help offset the cost of a weekend event.

Others shared concern that the proposed change in rules would reduce the ability of judges to earn money for teaching clinics prior to a show, reducing their potential income.

Some board members expressed concerns about the perception of a conflict of interest, with some competitors feeling as though clinic participants had an unfair advantage over competitors who were unable to attend the clinic, having had the opportunity to receive direct feedback from the judge and school the obstacles the day before the show.

Others indicated that they thought it was important to provide a way for people new to the sport to learn more so that their experience at the shows might be more positive. This sentiment was echoed by many members of the Board, with a particular emphasis on wanting to find ways to support riders at the lower levels.

Ultimately, the group reached a compromise position, and a motion was drafted that would allow judges to provide group instruction to Introductory-level riders before a competition, provided that the clinic instruction was open to auditors, with no restrictions in terms of level. In addition, the Board clarified that higher-level riders could still participate in the clinic if they wanted, provided they did not compete in the show (they could still do a schooling ride).

Related to the process rather than the content, it was suggested that any Board members who had a potential financial conflict of interest related to this topic, such as judges and show organizers who had indicated that they were concerned about the potential loss of revenue, should consider recusing themselves from the vote, in keeping with the Code of Conduct for USAWE Directors. No members of the Board declared a conflict of interest in this matter, and the issue was not pursued further.



Once it appeared that near consensus had been reached, President Barbara Price called the question, and requested a roll call vote. The results of that vote are as follows:

Voting Tabulation on the Motion

Director	Vote	Director	Vote
R1 Director Heather Humelbaugh	Yes	AL Director 1 Trisha Kiefer-Reed	Yes
R2 Director Robin Bond	No	AL Director 2 Doreen Atkinson	Yes
R3 Director Chris Stanko	Yes	Treasurer Erin O'Shaughnessy	Yes
R4 Director Kiki Pantaze	Yes	Secretary Julie Alonzo	Yes
R5 Director Becky Sherven	Yes	President Elect Olga Hendrickson	Yes
R6 Director Kim Hillyer	Yes	President Barbara Price	No
R7 Director Rebecca Algar	Yes		

Total in favor: 11 Total opposed: 2 Motion carried

- **The motion passed by roll call vote with 11 in favor and 2 opposed.**

President Barbara Price adjourned the meeting at 6:00 PM, Pacific Time.

Minutes submitted by Julie Alonzo, USAWE Secretary.