

UNITED STATES POLO ASSOCIATION
I/I Structure/Organization Review Sub-Committee
Wednesday, May 19, 2010 • 12:00 noon ET

Members Present:

Dr. Bruce Wells, I/I Co-Chairman
Kimberly M. Syme, I/I Program Director
Clyde Waddell
Peter Rizzo

Russell A. Sheldon, I/I Co-Chairman
David Eldredge
Duncan Huyler

Guests:

Amy Wisehart
Lou Lopez

Russ Sheldon, Co-Chair, presided over the meeting. He began at 12:06 with a welcome to members and guests and asked for suggestions for an additional sub-committee member to be sent to Kim Syme.

I. New Business

A. Review list of 2009 Structure Review items

1. Communication – Website, email, telephone

David Eldredge commented that there have been issues with communication between the NHTC and the Coaches' Sub-Committee with emphasis on the Coaches' Sub-Committee not being given the opportunity for input on NHTC decisions. He used the example of sending two central IC teams to the west IC regional.

Kim Syme suggested that two different topics were being addressed. One topic being the procedure for I/I communication which all agreed was good, although the implementation of communication needs improvement. The second topic being communication between the NHTC and the Coaches' Representatives. This should be addressed with the organization of the Coaches' Sub-Committee.

Clyde Waddell suggested that the Coaches' Sub-Committee needed to have better communication among all coaches, from the top to the bottom, not just with the NHTC.

Lou Lopez would like to know what the role of the Coaches' Sub-Committee is.

Russ Sheldon stated that the Coaches' Sub-Committee needs to put together structural organization and communication procedures and submit them for review to this committee.

2. The remainder of the 2009 Review Items list was reviewed. Topics were either deemed complete or added to the 2010 Review list (see attached list).

B. Review list of 2010 Structure Review items

1. Tournament Format, etc. (Review items 1-6)

Russ Sheldon stated that the Structure Review Committee should decide on any changes to the current tournament format. The Tournament Conditions committee would then ensure that the TCs fit what format is decided on. Because this is a large topic to discuss, it was suggested that a separate sub-committee consisting of Kim Syme, Tom Wisehart and David Eldredge, address items 1-6 on this list including issues concerning length of tournaments, dates of tournaments and the possibility of running the NIS Girls in conjunction with the NIS Open. Horses would be a major concern in these discussions.

Russ Sheldon noted that it is important to encourage lower level competition.

In response to the Girls' NIS joining with the Open NIS, David Eldredge noted it may create a longer tournament, thus creating the players to be out of school longer.

Kim Syme noted that in order for the two tournaments to run together, the number of teams competing at the NIS would have to be looked at.

Russ Sheldon suggested that the format remain the same for 2010 and continue to run the preliminary tournaments for the Girls' IS and take time to consider any format changes.

Lou Lopez noted that he would prefer a longer season for the Girls IS.

2. Team Meeting 15 Minutes after tournament games-

Kim Syme informed the group that this suggestion came from Steve Lane and other I/I tournament umpires. The thought is to hold a meeting 15 minutes at the end of each tournament game, where at least one representative from each team, as well as the HTC, be available to discuss any questions on the previous games - similar to the procedure in FIP. There is some concern by the group that these sessions could be more complaining than actual constructive learning and that the timing of the session is important. Perhaps morning sessions would be better. Kim will contact Steve Lane to see if there are any written FIP guidelines to model after.

3. Equine Welfare-

Kim and Amy will create an Equine Welfare Representative "checklist" and present to the committee for review.

4. Length of meetings – the length of the review teleconferences was discussed.

MOTION: David moved to schedule 1 ½ hours for each review teleconference. Seconded by Clyde. All in favor.

II. Announcements – next scheduled teleconference - June 2nd, 12 Noon ET

III. Adjournment