

UNITED STATES POLO ASSOCIATION
I/I Structure/Organization Review Sub-Committee
Wednesday, June 16, 2010 • 12:00 noon ET

Members Present:

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

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

Guests:

Amy Wisehart
Tom Wisehart

Russ Sheldon, Co-Chair, presided over the meeting. He began at 12:03 with a welcome to members and guests.

I. Approval of Minutes – June 2, 2010

David Eldredge made a motion to approve minutes. Seconded by Bruce Wells. All in Favor.

II. Old Business - Update of Items 1 – 6 by tournament format sub-committee

David Eldredge gave a report of the tournament format sub-committee. He discussed some of the major disadvantages in seeding the top 8 teams, as outlined on the document provided. Coaches with two teams assigned to play in different locations and horse concerns were included. He also noted seeding issues created because of teams not playing teams outside of their region during the regular season.

He continued by discussing another option, in using more preliminary tournaments within each region.

More tournaments will be held, but the duration of each tournament will be shorter. The idea is to encourage more novice teams to participate in a competitive tournament atmosphere. Russ Sheldon noted there are two reasons to hold a prelim- 1. To accommodate a number of teams within a region and 2. To give weaker teams opportunity to compete against like teams.

Russ Sheldon and Peter Rizzo requested that the tournament format sub-committee list both positives and negatives of each format for posting to the committee.

Tom Wisehart noted the ideal Regional number of teams would be four, since a Round Robin needs 3 days to complete where as 4 Teams can play over a shorter amount of time.

The next item discussed by David was length of the NIC - to accomplish this, more horses would be needed (to accommodate more games in a shorter amount of time). One of the negatives of this is there would be potential for a team would advance to the finals without having played any of the horses. The difficulty in getting more horses to the NIC was also noted. Another option would be to return to 4 regional tournaments with a maximum of 2 wild cards, totaling only 6 teams competing.

The discussion on to keep the Open and Girls Interscholastic nationals together or separate leaned toward separate, because by combining tournaments, we would lengthen the duration of the tournament, and the students would have to miss more school.

Seeding of the national tournament was mentioned. The tournament format sub-committee feels that teams should be seeded as they should without concern of wild cards being in the same bracket as the regional winner.

Russ Sheldon suggested that the coaches' reps get input from the coaching community regarding tournament format and potential changes and adding more preliminary tournaments.

III. New Business

A. Discuss item 9 – Shipping rates

There was a discussion on researching current shipping rates and how 0.35 per mile per horse was come about. Kim will check with Ed Armstrong. Peter will check on liability insurance for horse shipped to USPA

I/I Tournaments. David Eldredge asked if USPA could provide insurance on horses used for USPA I/I Tournaments.

MOTION: Russ Sheldon made a motion to direct Peter Rizzo to investigate the cost of mortality insurance on horses used in USPA I/I tournaments (regionals and nationals vs. only nationals), at a value of \$5000 compared to USPA self insurance. Seconded by David Eldredge. All in favor.

Kim and Amy were directed to provide all known data on horse injuries/mortalities at I/I tournaments from the past few years.

B. Discuss item 10 – Host site contracts and rates – tabled for next meeting

C. Discuss item 12 – Regional scheduling of games – teleconferences

Russ Sheldon agrees that this is a good idea and that teleconferences and correspondence should be encouraged. Tom Wisehart noted that many schools don't know how to go about scheduling games, and through the teleconferences, the other schools can assist them in scheduling.

MOTION: Russ Sheldon made a motion that USPA authorize funds for telephone conference calls for each region. Second by Bruce Wells. David Eldredge would like the I/I Committee to encourage these calls to help with participation. He feels that if it is a mandate then it would help them get all teams to participate. Peter Rizzo commented that through the coaches committee, they can advise coaches, not make it mandatory. He suggested that it be a strong advisory to all coaches to participate in the teleconferences and for it to be included in the Coaches' Committee organization.

D. Discuss item 13 – Umpire funding and request forms for I/I games. USPA will provide funding for regular season game umpires upon request. The goal is to get certified umpires to give back to their region to have better umpiring done at regular season games. Peter would like to see a better job on getting the word out that this funding is available. David would like to see something easier to find on the website regarding this support.

MOTION: Russ moved to add item #20 to the review list – Website Review – and asks that all review and give feedback on the website's I/I pages. Seconded by David. All in favor.

E. Item 14 – I/I Magazine

David Eldredge stated that he has received feedback from coaches asking what the magazine doing for I/I program? Russ mentioned that the parents love that the kids are getting recognized on a national level. Clyde Waddell would like it to include previous year's results and be able to use the magazine more for fundraising and getting university support. David Eldredge and Tom Wisehart will ask the coaching community for feedback on the content of the I/I magazine and report back. This group would also like to see the magazine sent out with the PPE mailing distribution.

IV. Announcements – next scheduled teleconference - June 30th, 12 Noon ET

V. Adjournment- Russ Sheldon made a motion to adjourn at 1:33 PM ET. David Eldredge seconded. All in favor.