

UNITED STATES POLO ASSOCIATION
I/I Structure/Organization Review Sub-Committee
Wednesday, June 2, 2010 • 12:00 noon ET

Members Present:

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

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

Guests:

Amy 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 – May 19, 2010

MOTION: David Eldredge made a motion to approve the minutes from May 19th. Clyde Waddell seconded. All in favor.

Minutes will be posted on the USPA I/I Bulletin.

II. Old Business

A. Prioritization of Structure Review Items

Russ Sheldon asked if there were any comments or changes to the prioritizing of the Structure Review Items. There were none.

B. Update of Items 1 – 6 by tournament format sub-committee

David Eldredge gave an overview of what the sub-committee had discussed to date. He mentioned that the two tier option may not be a feasible one. One reason is in the possible difficulty in determining Division I and Division II teams and letting those teams know their competition level early enough so that those teams can compete against each other. Also the horse issue comes into play, in that the majority of the horses would have to come from Division I teams. He discussed that there were some negatives involved with the top 8 team format as well. More work will be needed on this format before coming to any conclusions.

The feeling of the sub-committee is that Item 3- the Girls Nationals running along with the Open Nationals- could put strain on the available horses and would also lengthen the duration of the tournament, which would keep kids out of school longer.

Items 2, 4, 5 and 6 can not be dealt with until Item 1 is figured out. David noted that it may be best to continue with the current format this year and to give more time to work out any possible issues with a new format. The sub-committee will report on progress at next meeting. David did add that the sub-committee felt that a fee/deposit should be submitted by all teams when submitting Intent to Compete Forms (December 1st). The objective being to ensure that teams sending in a form actually have intent on competing. It may also discourage teams from backing out at the last minute. The group does not want a fee to be an amount that would cripple any teams financially.

Russ Sheldon mentioned that we want to encourage participation but perhaps instate some sort of financial commitment from the teams. Resources should not be wasted.

Kim Syme noted that 126 teams submitted intent to compete forms and only 83 competed in

regionals. She noted that time and resources are spent on all 126 teams by both USPA and other participating teams. Some of these teams still may not have competed in a tournament but more possible would have been more organized had they had some money on the line. Clyde Waddell and Duncan Huyler wanted to be sure that teams were not penalized excessively. MOTION: Clyde Waddell made a motion to establish a \$100 non- refundable deposit towards a team's tournament entry fee, submitted with the intent to compete form on Dec. 1st. Seconded by David Eldredge. Motion carried.

III. New Business - Discuss 2010 Structure/Organizational Items for Review – see attachment

- A. Discuss item 9 – There was a discussion on whether or not there should be a standard contract between USPA and host site as far as what the fees and duties are of the host site. David Eldredge stated that yes there should be a contract. Peter Rizzo proposed that standardized USPA contract to be used pro forma. This contract can be used or a host site contract can be negotiated if needed. Peter offered USPA legal services to create. MOTION: Clyde Waddell made a motion for the USPA to develop a standardized contract for host sites. Seconded by David. Eldredge. All in favor.
- B. Discuss item 10 – Shipping reimbursement rates and shipping insurance
Discussion included questions as to who was responsible if something happens to a horse en route to a USPA Tournament. Russ Sheldon suggested that when the USPA pays for the shipping, it passes on the responsibility to horse owners.
MOTION: Peter Rizzo moved that the USPA review the liability and insurance concerns related to horse shipping and liability and responsibility of horses on site of a USPA I/I Tournament. Seconded by David Eldredge. All in favor. Clyde Waddell suggested that various scenarios be looked at through the USPA such as students driving, personal trucks and trailers, etc. Russ Sheldon suggested that some teams be asked to submit their personal scenario to Peter Rizzo, who will have the attorneys review.
- C. Shipping rates and host site rates will be discussed next meeting. Peter would like to include what should be listed in the contracts and what exactly should be paid for.

IV. Announcements – next scheduled teleconference - June 16th, 12 Noon ET

V. Adjournment at 1:32 PM ET.