

UNITED STATES POLO ASSOCIATION
I/I Structure/Organization Review Sub-Committee
Wednesday, June 30, 2010 • 12:00 noon ET

Members:

Russell A. Sheldon, I/I Co-Chairman
Kimberly M. Syme, I/I Program Director
Clyde Waddell
Jim Burton
Peter Rizzo

David Eldredge
Duncan Huyler
Philip Abel

Guests:

Tom Wisehart
Amy Wisehart

I. Welcome Members and Guests

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

II. Approval of Minutes – June 16, 2010

MOTION: Russ Sheldon made a motion to approve the minutes from last meeting. Peter Rizzo seconded. Discussion: move the 2nd paragraph that starts with “David” to next line. All in favor of corrected minutes.

III. Old Business

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

Tom Wisehart gave an update of the sub-committee. He discussed the advantages and disadvantages of both proposed changes to the tournament system. The sub-committee recommends not to make any drastic changes at this time, but to enhance the current tournament format. He continued by saying that by holding more pre-regionals participation of teams would increase, the level of competition at tournaments would be more even, and the duration of each tournament would be shorter (reduces the amount of time students are out of class). The sub-committee suggests having at least one prelim in each region, based on ability of teams, not necessarily on amount of teams. Tom Wisehart also noted the sub committee suggests returning to a four regional system.

Russ Sheldon requests a final proposal for recommendation.

Clyde Waddell noted he does not agree with going back to four regions, but would like to realign teams. He would like feedback on the realignment from the universities, not just the coaches.

He suggests forming a sub-committee to investigate this. The sub-committee will consist of Clyde Waddell, Russ Sheldon, David Eldredge, and Tom Wisehart.

B. Item 9 – Shipping rates

There was little feed back from coaches regarding how different teams ship horses.

C. Item 14 – I/I Magazine, feedback from coaches

Tom Wisehart reported in coaches feed back received. The coaches would like to see more pictures of the players playing in the current year. David Eldredge noted that they liked the increased content from last year. They would like the I/I mag to go out with the PPE polo magazine. Peter Rizzo stated that it will go out with PPE next year. The I/I magazine will

continue to be a work in progress and teams will continue to be asked to submit items and photos.

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

A. Discuss item 15 – Coaches' Sub-Committee Organization

David Eldredge and Tom Wisehart presented their ideas for organization and procedure. They discussed appointing regional coaches to assist in communicating with other coaches in their respective regions and to help facilitate set up of regional games. Russ commented that this was a great start to a work in process. The outline of organization will be included in the Fall I/I Info Pack.

B. Discuss item 16 – NHTC Term limits

Peter Rizzo noted that currently, there are not term limits on any USPA Committee. All committee members and chairs serve at the pleasure of the USPA Chairman. Russ noted that the I/I Committee, NHTC, and RHTCs are reviewed yearly. Currently all terms are one year with no maximum terms. Any term limits will have to be approved by the USPA Board of Governors.

MOTION: Russ moved that NHTC members will serve one year terms, with a maximum of three consecutive years of service. Seconded by David. All in favor.

C. Discuss item 17 – I/I Judicial procedure

There was discussion as to whether there needed to be a formal process (in writing) for a coach to request that the USPA look into a player's eligibility. Peter Rizzo noted that any concerns or protests are to be submitted to the NHTC. Russ Sheldon noted the need to reinforce that all questions, complaints, protests goes through the I/I Program Director first. Russ continued that any judicial item presented to the NHTC, is followed up on and the committee asks every involved party to turn in a written statement. A review is conducted and a decision made.

Kim Syme added that language can be included in the fall packet that addresses this protocol.

D. Equine Welfare Form – A draft of the form was reviewed. Russ mentioned that the Equine Welfare Committee would like to adopt this form as well, so it needs to be generic for arena and field polo. Peter suggested that the form state; "It is recommended that the following items be available field side" and to add the Kimzee Brace to the list of items. Kim mentioned that Megan Judge suggested that some info be included in the injury/fatality section that includes weather conditions. Kim will make changes and send back to the committee for review.

V. Announcements – next scheduled teleconference – July 14th, 12 Noon ET

VI. Adjournment

MOTION: Peter Rizzo made a motion to adjourn at 1:25 PM ET. David Eldredge second. All in favor.