

UNITED STATES POLO ASSOCIATION
I/I TC Review Sub-Committee
Wednesday, July 21, 2010 • 12:00 noon ET

MINUTES

Present:

Dr. Bruce Wells, Co-Chairman
Kimberly M. Syme, I/I Program Director
Cindy Halle
Lou Lopez

Russell A. Sheldon, Co-Chairman
Megan Judge
Danny Scheraga

Guests:

Jim Burton
Duncan Huyler

I. Call to Order – Russ Sheldon called meeting to order at 12:03 PM ET. He began by welcoming members and guests.

II. Approval of Minutes – July 7, 2010

Discussion: Bruce Wells mentioned that he was not listed as voting yes to the split string/spare horse procedure. Kim will make correction.

MOTION: Danny Scheraga moved to accept the amended meeting minutes. Seconded by Bruce. All in favor.

III. Old Business

A. Item 1 – Eligibility Sub-Committee presented drafted changes to the Individual IC Eligibility. It was noted that there were some on the sub-committee who wanted to increase the age cap to 28 years old. Kim noted that on two separate occasions, the TC Review Committee indicated they would like to keep it at 26 years old.

MOTION: Russ moved to accept the sub-committees recommendation with a modification to the age remaining 26 years. Seconded by Cindy. All in favor.

1. Individual Eligibility

*a. An individual must be a current Registered or Affiliate Player or Collegiate member of the USPA to be eligible for participation in any IC Tournament or Qualified Game(s). Non-members are not covered by USPA excess liability insurance. New students must join in the **fall** and renew membership in the **spring**. Students may join online at www.uspolo.org.*

*b. A student must be an undergraduate or first year non-transfer graduate student of the college that he/she represents, **as verified through the Registrar's office**. First year non-transfer graduate students must meet all other eligibility requirements and have participated in his/her college polo program for a minimum of one year as an **undergraduate and** USPA member.*

*c. A student has **five consecutive years from the time of first matriculation, at any college or university regardless if the student has transferred to its current institution, in which to complete four years of eligibility.***

d. The Registrar of the institution at which the student is enrolled must verify the following:

i. Student maintains a passing average.

*ii. Student is **enrolled as** a full time student in **good standing**, making progress toward a degree on the **main** campus which the college polo team represents.*

*iii. Student's **first year of matriculation.***

iv. If student is in his/her final semester/quarter, the student may carry less than a full-time academic load. The registrar must verify that this is the student's final semester/quarter. This allowance is only permitted once and only if the player is a graduating senior and a letter from the Registrar confirming such status is obtained.

*e. An Official Representative from the institution's governing body of the polo program (i.e. Recreation Sports Dept., Student Government, Athletic Dept.) which the student is enrolled must verify that the student is scholastically eligible to **participate in sports** at his/her school.*

f. A student is permitted to supplement his/her course load with online classes as long as the majority of the semester/quarter credits are taken on the physical main campus with interaction between instructors and students during scheduled class periods. Online classes are defined as courses which are offered exclusively through the internet as opposed to being taught in a classroom.

g. A student entering active military duty after being enrolled at a college or university will have the five-year period extended for the length of that military service.

h. A student, including one who has misrepresented his or her Individual Eligibility, who has played in any intercollegiate competition in any region during the I/I season (September 1st through the National Tournament), is considered to have used a year of eligibility whether or not the student plays in a USPA intercollegiate tournament.

i. A student may not have reached his/her 26th birthday prior to September 1st preceding the date of the intercollegiate season for which eligibility is sought.

B. Item 2 – Penalty 7 language – There was discussion as to whether the team captain of the team fouled should have to make the decision to play a substitute before or after the HTC’s determination of which player should be removed.

MOTION: Russ moved to accept the drafted language as written. Seconded by Danny.

Vote: Bruce – yes. Russ – no. Danny –yes. Lou – yes. Cindy – yes. Megan – abstain.

Motion carries.

c. All I/I games shall be played without handicap. In the event of a Penalty 7, if a player is disabled by a foul to the extent the Umpire permits or orders the player’s retirement from the game, the Captain of the team fouled may:

i. Have the option of providing a qualified substitute.

ii. Request a player from the fouling team whose ability is closest to that of the disabled player, as determined by the HTC, with the advice of the umpires, be removed. The HTC shall have not more than 20 minutes from the time the foul occurred to make a determination. The Captain must decide how to proceed immediately following the HTC’s determination.

C. Item 3 – Split String TC

The committee discussed whether a general Tournament Condition referring to the Split String procedure in the I/I Packet was sufficient. Kim will look at the possibility of including it on the USPA triplicate Split String Sheets as well. Cindy mentioned all tournament managers and teams receive this procedure in their tournament packets. All agreed to the presented TC language.

e. All I/I Tournaments and Qualified Games will be played using a “Split String” as outlined in the I/I Information Packet. Procedures for using a split string as well as the procedure for utilizing a spare if needed shall be followed as outlined on the split string sheet.

D. Item 12 – Fines and Penalties

There was some discussion of the current TCs that reference fines and penalties of teams not fulfilling requirements and for horse providers not keeping horses in tournaments as scheduled.

MOTION: Keep current language as is. Seconded by Bruce. All in favor.

E. Item 13 – Umpires and helmets

Kim offered two options in the wording that would require umpires to wear helmets. Russ felt that the wording that was consistent with the rule book was best until the USPA comes up with a definition of a helmet. He stated that this would ensure equal liability coverage. Cindy and Lou feel it should be more specific to riding and polo helmets. Kim stated that it seemed backward to specify riding and polo helmets for umpires but not for players (as written in the USPA Rules). Danny agreed and feels that should be brought up to the Rules Committee.

MOTION: Cindy moved to accept the proposed Tournament Condition with the amended wording specifying riding and polo helmets. Seconded by Bruce. All in favor.

Umpires shall not appear in any I/I event in other than proper uniform including a suitable riding or polo helmet with chin strap in place.

IV. New Business

A. Discuss item 14 – Excessive spurring

Kim stated that this is a topic that comes up often at tournament and feels that it needs to be discussed, although what the solution is unclear. Jim Burton stated that this is a big concern for him and for the larger polo population and feels the culture of excessive whipping and spurring needs to change in order to reach out to other horse disciplines. Lou asked if spurs should be banned completely. Cindy, Danny and Kim did not feel that was necessary. The group feels that this is an umpire training issue and would like to see an excessive spurring example be listed in the rules. Danny will bring this request to the Rules Committee. Kim will also draft language for a TC that states excessive whipping and spurring will not be tolerated and present to committee to review.

B. Discuss item 15 – Appropriate working footwear

The group agrees that this has become necessary due to the popularity of students wearing flip flops while working around horses.

MOTION: Bruce moved to accept proposed language. Seconded by Danny. All in favor.

All participants in any USPA I/I Tournament/Event shall wear suitable shoes when working around horses. All shoes must be closed toed and closed heeled.

C. Discuss item 16 – Definition of HTC

The committee agrees that host tournament committees should be defined and listed in the TCs.

The Tournament Committee is comprised of:

- ***Tournament Manager***
- ***Any RHTC (of the particular region) and NHTC members present***
- ***Select USPA members (as named by the above individuals)***

D. Open Comments

Kim will update list of review topics with a summary of findings and send out to the committee ASAP. The committee will respond by Friday evening, July 23rd so that both the TC and the Structure Review Committees can review the two summarized lists prior to the joint teleconference. Kim will also send proposed I/I required forms for review.

V. Announcements – next scheduled teleconference – June 28th, 12 Noon ET

Joint teleconference

VI. Adjournment – Lou made a motion to adjourn at 1:44 PM ET. Seconded by Danny. All in favor.