

Ontario Eventing Association Board of Directors Meeting
Jan 10th 2022
Final Minutes

Present: Ann Neal, Veronica Low, Caroline Abrahams, Sarah Richardson, Kendal Lehari, Nikki Maclellan, Linda Plank, Justin Ridgewell, Kelly Gravelle, Terri Hough-Gilmour, Char Hodgson,

Regrets: Doug Topalovic, Selena O’Hanlon, Cheryl Denault

Call to Order: 7:05 p.m.

1. Meeting Opening

Veronica moved, Sarah seconded and it was carried to approve the agenda.

Kelly moved, Veronica seconded and it was carried to approve the Nov 8th minutes.

2. Reminders

Ann reminded members of our rules of engagement and the need for respectful discussions. She also reminded members to acquire their OEA membership for 2022 as it was mandatory for all Board members.

3. Matters for Discussion

a. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Ann advised members that at the beginning of a new OEA year, members are required to declare any conflicts they have related to their position on the board.

- i. Veronica Low – runs a marketing and publishing company and does public relations for Jessica Phoenix
- ii. Charlotte Hodgson – runs Boogaloo boots, works for Wits End to promote and organize events
- iii. Ann Neal – runs Springhill farm which includes boarders who are competitors and is also mother to Katie Bondrager who coaches, trains and competes
- iv. Justin Ridgewell – sponsored by Boogaloo, Struck and Paramount, coaches eventers and is a dressage judge at sanctioned events
- v. Sarah Richardson – volunteers as Secretary for Stevens Creek
- vi. Linda Plank – is a TD
- vii. Nikki – runs Raynham Stables and has a number of clients who event and stepdad is Lindsay Mahon who also events
- viii. Kendal Lehari – is a coach and coaches AAs and YRs and also competes
- ix. Kelly Gravelle – none
- x. Caroline Abrahams – none

It was noted that Cheryl, Doug, Selena and Terri will need to declare any conflicts at a future meeting.

EC/OE Issues

Ann reported that there has been no further official communication with EC regarding our dispute with an organizer regarding levies.

Action:

Kelly and Sarah will work together to draft a letter to address the very specific issue re: non-payment of levies

PHTA Issues

A roundtable is scheduled for January 24th. There will be a discussion of the implementation of coaching requirements at events. There will also be discussion of Officials clinics. Ann would like to propose hosting one in Ontario. There was general support for the concept by the Board. It was clarified that this would be a clinic for all officials (TDs, Stewards etc.) both for new officials but also for existing officials to maintain their certification. There would also be a discussion about the use of EC levies.

Leaderboard Methodology

Caroline provided an overview of the current OEA leaderboard methodology. Nikki commented that she had tried to investigate approaches in other disciplines and countries. Suggested we could award a range of points for placing rather than being penalized for doing well in a small division. Discussion ensued about considerations. It fixes problem in East but we haven't quite figured out range of points for small divisions versus high divisions. Generally agreed that we should add EV1.05 and FEI with a bump to our existing divisions. Need to confirm that day memberships don't accumulate points. A large open division is still a problem. Could we provide support (\$\$) to divisions to award ribbons? If we did points on a range of points – as opposed to smaller divisions. Emphasized that you should never get one point for first place. We can go away and think about it – think about verbiage and vote February.

Action:

Nikki and Caroline to consider options for next Board meeting.

4. Treasurers Report

No report

5. Committee Reports

a. Governance & Policy

No Report

b. Communications

Char noted that we sent out a January newsletter and a communication about the Zara Buren award. It was noted that at some point we need to discuss changes to hosting

and possibly a new platform for our website. Char noted that there are many other options around website hosting. Agreed that our website looks good but very difficult to navigate and find information. If we have complaints can we identify what they are so we can. Noted that organizers would like OEA to emphasize their rules for events on our website (e.g. no spectators and no dogs)

c. Sport Development

Young Rider/U25:

Noted that we did to revisit leaderboard for 2022 to add new divisions. Justin is a new member of this committee. Want to increase registration fees as it offers considerable value. Want to have a social media program and would offer all riders a boot camp on social media training. They have the template for the Yearly Training Plan (YTP). This year would like to propose fewer clinics and more thematic – more focussed. As far as insurance, for clinics with fences it was suggested that we should check with our insurance representative to confirm if we need medics at these clinics to cover OEA liability. As season rolled along last year there were fewer people doing clinics. Want to keep training and travel grants the same. Justin suggested that if you were going to get a grant – want to make sure that you also have your rider levels. Not just training riders but getting more rounded educated riders – also helps with the pipeline of coaching.

Discussion ensued about the use for extra funds to be charged for U25 program. This year will be a standard rate for clinics. Dressage is usually more as groups are smaller. Clinicians will all get a flat rate of \$1,000. And with the increase in the fee – ensure additional surpluses always go back to the program.

Veronica moved, seconded by Terri and carried that the 2022 fee to join the YR/U25 program would be \$100 and for that fee riders could have as many horses as they wish.

Agreed that additional details including clinic structure would be brought back to a future meeting. Also discussed that the Program would be U25 and age groups would be further defined.

Adult Riders:

No report

Coaching: Kendal noted that February is mental health month and she is talking to the featured speakers on details. First three Tuesdays in February are booked for speakers. As she gets closer just needs to figure out Zoom and social media to promote the sessions. Gabby is donating her fee toward the safety committee – will be \$600 for other two speakers.

Ann moved, seconded by Nikki and carried that OEA Board will support up to \$1200 for the mental health awareness series in February, 2022.

Schooling Days: No report. Sarah was hoping we could get more uptake for 2022. Hoping to promote this through future organizer meetings.

d. Competitions

Organizers:

Nikki is the new Chair of this committee with Cheryl as support. Sarah has also offered to support this group. We need to ensure they have their TDs in place for this season as well as their orders for frangibles.

Volunteers: Agreed that we are redirecting volunteer funding for safety. Agreed to table this for the next meeting.

Officials/Safety/Rules: Discussed the notion of hosting an Officials clinic in Ontario. Linda noted that she is now a Level 3 TD one of very few in Ontario. She will be very busy in 2022. Linda noted that anyone who is interested needs to get their application in to EC. Kendal wondered if we should offer an OEA Zoom call about what it would take to become an Official in Ontario. Ann and Linda to sort out details of this initiative.

6. Other Matters

Notion of Futurities for Event Horses – for future discussion to encourage quality event. Also the interprovincial finale – what to do?

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be Monday February 14th

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.