

11/13/2010

Call to Order: 10:05 AM

Roll Call: Districts Present – 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20

Introductions:

Lauren Leark, Annette Thelen

Agenda:

Motion to approve
District 17 – Motions
District 1 – Seconds
Pass

Minutes:

Motion to accept minutes
District 18 – Motions
District 19 – Seconds
Passed with Changes

Treasurer's Report:

Balance \$34750.20
\$64700.94 State Incoming
The audit is done and was E-Filed as of the 8th.
Treasurer suggested we use this auditor for next year.
Expenses were better this year.
District 1 – Asks if there is a new financial form.
Treasurer – Yes. If we could hold off the form may be available this year.

Looking for junior patches for 2006-2007.
District 4 – Has one 2007.
Annette will look for 2006

A vendor sent two tickets for the Novi Expo. Treasurer has them if they are wanted.

Motion to accept treasurer's report
District 1 – Motions
District 9 – Seconds
Passed

Old Business:

None

New Business:

A. St. Johns Junior Coaching Issue

1st Vice Chair – July 15th, Terry had a letter of complaint filed against Phil Tietsort for contacting the lawyer for the former St. Johns junior coach. The executive board assigned 1st Vice Chair, Dennis Stanton to investigate.

Dennis met with Phil to ask questions. Phil did admit to contacting the lawyer and felt it his right to do so as part of the junior steering committee.

The St. Johns parent board voted out the coach.

When did it start?

District 4 – Started October of 2009.

1st Vice Chair – Believed the problem was resolved but it was not. The complaint was for a meeting scheduled and subsequently cancelled with the chair, DC and coaches.

Phil contacted the lawyer to suggest a change of meeting to bring it before the junior steering committee.

The meeting was cancelled and a different one scheduled.

The issue is with Phil superseding the executive board in the name of the junior steering committee.

The executive board proposed a 1 year probation and to not hold a committee chair or executive board seat in that time.

Phil resigned in frustration.

District 18 – Is not sure what is being asked of the B.O.D.

1st Vice Chair – The B.O.D. has the right to override the decision.

Rules Chair – During the investigation many things came to light. The executive board is at fault too. There are two places in the rulebook where it contradicts itself. Article 5F is read about standing committees and Article 15 is read.

There is confusion here. It bothers her that one of the vice chairs is not chairing that committee. In the rulebook it states one of the vice chairs will chair all of the 6-7 committees.

District 20 – Questions if Phil had the approval of the committee to call and make changes.

Annette – The junior committee was not notified due to the fact that knowledge of the issue wasn't received until May or June but still had no documentation. She gave her blessing for the call but did not contact the rest of the committee.

If this resides in the executive board, they did not know of it either, only the chair did.

Phil did not have the full committee approval. She did not contact the rest of the committee.

District 20 – Did he have permission to suggest changes?

Sharone Greene – Phil made the lawyer aware there was a junior steering committee.

District 20 – He confirms contact with the lawyer?

1st Vice Chair – When he talked with Phil, Phil stated he suggested a change. He asked who he contacted prior to making the call. Phil stated he attempted to call the chair but could not get a hold of him.

District 20 – So Phil had the power to make the suggestion?

District 17 – No.

District 9 – He is not or was not chair. Except we have had him representing the committee. He felt they were in the dark on this situation. In the last situation like this there was much discussion before a decision was made. The chair is not Phil nor Chris according to our rulebook.

District 9 – Why is it kept confidential until now? How many DCs knew?

1st Vice Chair – Terry

District 9 - What is it he did wrong to deserve this?

1st Vice Chair – He went over the chairperson's head and suggested a change of venue.

Annette – You keep saying “Phil changed.” He did not say you will change and meet with us.

In order to understand we need to go into the issue a little further.

It was Phil's impression they didn't know certain rules.

District 4 – Read the letter from the lawyer. At the time of the meeting with the committee, he didn't know who the representative was.

Sharone Greene – One of the concerns was that Terry was on probation at the time and didn't know if he had the authority to handle this.

District 9 – Terry was on probation for sitting on committees.

Annette – Reads the #6 rule on Terry’s probation letter.

District 4 – Is there a letter of complaint?

Annette – Received a letter on June 22nd from the coach’s attorney. The coach said she sent one to the DCs.

1st Vice Chair – Has a copy of the letter.

Annette – Phil and Sharone were the whole starting force for juniors in 2003. He is such an integral part of the committee. Where it doesn’t change what we perceive he did, it does give him some consideration.

2nd Vice Chair – When he stated he couldn’t get a hold of Chris, why didn’t he call one of the other vice chairs?

1st Vice Chair – Asked Phil why. Phil stated he was tired of waiting. There was no question of whether he was a good person. We felt he over stepped his authority.

District 18 – Agrees with it. Those decisions made in an ongoing investigation were affected. The chain gets a little blurred but still needs to be followed.

Larry Flanary– What is it you feel Phil did incorrectly? It as a request not a demand.

1st Vice Chair – He over stepped his bounds.

Sharone Greene – We didn’t know the meeting existed.

District 11 – It sounds from the letter that they thought Phil was a representative. The problem is we can’t have multiple people representing. It causes a conflict.

District 9 – Who is the steering committee besides Chris? How many knew of the meeting?

Chair – Three people

Annette – We did not know it existed until late May.

Chair – States he talked with Annette.

Annette – Denies but states it is possible.

It was when she contacted the junior steering committee she contacted the chair about it.

2nd Vice Chair – It depends on where you look in the rulebook to which one is followed.

A few years before Terry brought an issue with a coach to Larry Flanary.

Larry Flanary – Was chastized for not taking it to the junior steering committee. He took it back to them where it was resolved.

1st Vice Chair – This snowballed because of poor communication.

Larry Flanary – He agrees very much with Chris. Remembers the junior steering committee was to handle ALL junior steering stuff. Your job as chair of the committee was to appoint a chair.

Agrees with Chris this is water under the bridge. There is going to be differences of opinion and poor communication. The integrity of the organization was always highest priority.

Terry has always done what he thinks is right, but didn't think Terry had the authority to follow this as he did.

District 4 – If you, Larry, believe this was about you it's incorrect. Believes the email from Annette was retaliatory. He states again he did not remove the coach. The parents voted out the coach.

Annette – Every communication from the coach was to Terry.

Sharone Greene – Her personal request is to remove the probation.

Rules Chair – Most of this was before the executive board. The bottom line is a person on your committee running on their own is a loose cannon. We felt we needed to address the stepping over the line.

District 9 – The reason this is on the agenda is for the letter approval?

1st Vice Chair – Gave Phil the courtesy call due to the time length until the meeting.

District 20 – Just clarifying. Phil understands he was acting without the full backing of the steering committee.

1st Vice Chair – Yes, from his conversation with Phil.

District 20 – He should have had the full backing of the committee. The meeting was changed due to the call. It was a huge lack of communication. Feels there is a consequence for the actions. Does feel it was inappropriate to step forward as he did.

District 9 – Calls for the vote

Treasurer – Agrees but wants to show how many decisions are made without the board’s knowledge.

District 20 – How do we correct the communication problem?

1st Vice Chair – It’s a good question. It’s one we have been searching to answer.

District 20 – Is very concerned about decisions made without contacting Chris ahead of time.

Annette – When you contact the executive board how do you notify the whole board?

District 18 – Shows the contact list.

Annette – It is possible to only contact one member.

There is a dangerous precedent being set with a person on a committee being too close to a situation and voting on it.

And a person on probation violating the rulebook.

District 9 – A “yes” vote endorses the letter, a “no” vote and an “obstain” vote are a “no” vote.

Roll Called

District 7 – Asks if there should be a close door discussion.

1st Vice Chair – Is this to discuss more or to vote?

Closed door discussion had.

Vote:
Yes – 9
No – 2
Abstain – 2
Motion Passed

1st Vice Chair – Phil is officially on probation for one year. Phil resigned previous to this day.

District 7 – She hopes that all chairs follow protocol. Each one she knows of so far has had at least once not followed the rules. The difference between intent and accidental weighs in. These meetings should be for resolution and ideas for resolution.

1st Vice Chair – It would be nice if DCs would send an email to the executive board with what issues are happening.

District 19 – She has an assistant coach and coach going different directions. Adela told her coach she is coach and can pick her assistant. Is this correct?

B.O.D. – Yes

Committees

State Show Committee – Up 10 riders this year to 280. Had 481 vs 429 stalls. Ran through winners.

How were the state champ medals received?

They were only given to participants.

They were well liked.

Rules Committee –Emailed four speed rules from district 8. Have four suggestions from judges. Three people want to work with the rules chair on wording.

December 31st is the deadline.

Without the meeting in January we don't get to go over the rules.

If there are suggestions to the rules she will pass it on to the creator.

District 18 – Is there a way to put the rules in a major/minor category? AKA boot lace vs. rule change.

Rules Chair – We strongly suggest not to use the protest portion of the rulebook for minor infractions.

If for one year we put in a person to analyze the attire and tack. It may cut down on issues.

1st Vice Chair – In the rulebook it states penalty for inappropriate attire.

Rules Chair – A bit made it through regionals, but a steward would catch that.

District 1 – This needs to start at the district level.

District 20 – Did at regionals but told them it may not fly at states.

Rules Chair – there is nothing in the rulebook on bits.

District 19 – It comes down to education.

District 1 – Do we put it in the rulebook for bits?

Rules – Need a section just on bits. We look at attire in riding classes but not showmanship.

District 19 – When you talk bits how do you standardize it?

Rules Chair – Best is to go with AHA rules.

District 7 – Received a call in September from a judge about a meet in a district regarding a kid crossing back over the timer line after the patten was complete.

Rules Chair – This is not a rule and no cause for DQ

2nd Vice Chair – It was a mistake made by him and has since learned.

Junior Steering Committee – The only thing coming across is from Goodrich and Davison across district lines. We have allowed it before if there is no other team. But at the senior level it won't fly.

District 11 – Did not know if there was going to be a team next spring.

Annette – At this time we said no as it is early. It will wait until spring.

1st Vice Chair – Inquiries about juniors crossing state line for joining has come up.

Annette – We have done it in the past.

Regional Committee – Would like to have a regional meeting before the December B.O.D. meeting. December 11th.

District 2 – It's time to move districts and regions around. If you were in the top 1st and 2nd team you'd go to regionals.
Are we going to enhance the regional shows and bring up more teams?

District 13 – Wasn't the whole point of regionals to make states smaller?

Chair – There was the ability to use the other two merchant buildings. There should be enough room.

District 19 – Is money going to be an issue?

District 2 – Your looking at 1/2 again at regionals for numbers.

Chair – Currently there wasn't enough riders to fund a regional meet.

District 4 – The facilities continues to be an issue. We can't do it at the district level.

District 19 – How many districts have two A teams?

Chair – Some of the districts are so small that we need to redistrict the state first.

2nd Vice Chair – It comes down to information and come up with a solution.

District 19 – Would like to change up regionals before districts.

District 7 – How many districts have one A team?

District 1 – Three districts had no A team.

District 7 – Those having few A teams should go to a different region.

District 19 – Transport distance is a problem.

2nd Vice Chair – Forward suggestions to him.

District 7 – Situation with a regional judge. Erica Utz when she was doing patterns, hunt seat eq 1st pattern, she didn't like the pattern or how she rode it. She did add rail work. Second judge was Bonnie Hazen.

She was out talking to the kids. Fred and Myra went out to stop her. Myra let her know the conversation was to stop. She asked later what was said.

She told them their patterns were not state worthy. That was the reason for the extra rail work.

District 9 – That would justify a letter to Karen Waite.

Rules – There should be more than one signature on the form.

2nd Vice Chair – We all have our lists and have had experiences.

Membership – No Report

Historian – No Report

Judges Committee – How were the judges?

2nd Vice Chair – Issue next year will be the number of qualified judges. It will be smaller due to some giving lessons.

Rules Chair – The problem is how early they are contacted.

District 9 – The ones he feels have credibility won't have an issue.

2nd Vice Chair – Received questions on who they may have given lessons to.

Rules Chair – It branches down to clinics.

District 19 – Sometimes it's educating the parents and kids.

District 1 – Can we ask the judges committee to have a list of judges for the next meeting. State meet October 13, 14, 15, and 16.

2nd Vice Chair – Any problem without of state judges?

District 18 – Likes different faces.

We did save money

Patterns – How were the patterns for regionals and states?

District 1 – There were patterns at districts that were used at regionals at states.

1st Vice Chair – Went back four years for regional and state patterns.

Rules Chair – The trail at district and regional levels were good but at states it wasn't challenging. It was more scary than challenging.

District 2 – The scoring for not completing the course should place below ones completing.

District 1 – The rulebook needs to have a trail score sheet with the 70 point system.

Trophy Committee – Liked the trophies at the events. We have to change the rulebook. Next year we will order extra. State keeper trophies were well received. Would like to do it the same way next year.

Finance – No Report

Nominations – One person for Treasurer submitted. Dennis is planning to run again.

Scholarship – 64 applications are received. The committee will meet between now and December 1st. The quality and quantity of essays is better this year.

District Reports:

1. Meeting last night for middle school. Last year had an open mic clinic. They will do it again instead of having two meets. 1st meet is the clinic and 2nd is the scored meet.
2. All is good. Have been some changes with man accused of SMC. He pleaded no contest.
3. Not Present
4. All is good. An investigation for rule infractions to the executive board.
5. Not Report
6. Not Present
7. No Report
8. All is good. Banquest was last Sunday
9. All is good. Banquet tomorrow. Recovering from money shortage.
10. All is good, no news.
11. Banquet tomorrow. Two complaints, 1 – team requirements. They did not meet them. 2 – Felt she was kept off a team. She was green and horse wouldn't stand still. She was a manager for the team.
12. Not Present

13. Banquet last weekend. Problem between a coach and parent. She is letting them work it out. Parent is refusing to pay back the coach.
14. Not Present
15. Banquet was last weekend. They will be buying a set of timers. Farmtek were suggested.
16. Not Present
17. Good. Banquet the 21st.
18. Had the banquet and is the DC again. Issue with a coach. He's forwarded it up to the executive board.
19. Banquet last week. Leann Rooker new DC. One upset rider due to meet being called due to weather.
20. No Report

Correspondence:

No Correspondence

Call to the Public:

Therese Sealy – Parent from Oxford in district 2. Three girls to be on a team. She is amazed how involved and dedicated the DCs are.

She is here to ask about preparing kids to go to collegiate level.

She has concerns about how the hunt seat was judged. She was seeing hunt seat judged as it were in the stock world. They see it judged as a western pleasure hunt seat way.

She was watching the A division hunt seat equitation. The Albion college people walked out prior to the second split.

23 Division 1 and 2 colleges give out 15 full scholarships to riders.

Is getting the kids ready for collegiate level part of our vision?

District 9 – One of the big differences between us and other groups is we are equitation based.

He feels they are getting exposure. MIHA is not going to switch so they match other organizations.

District 2 – We try to focus on equitation because at the collegiate level you pick the horse out of a hat.

Therese – Is seeing kids at the state level riding at the stock equitation world and winning.

District 2 – In their district the same questions came up. One of the coaches hired a hunter/jumper judge to Double judge. It is the judge's opinion.

District 18 – We are all inclusive. We have everything. The riders have to be versatile.

District 7 – Had a rider who qualified for national competition as a freshman.

District 1 – It’s all about equitation.

Therese – She is coming from her perspective that it’s geared toward stock riders.

Rules Chair – The number of stock horses to others is astronomical. 80% are stock. When we use the judges list many are predominately stock horse. The reality is the horse placing is the best one and the rider is the best one.

As far as us getting colleges to look at the kids that is the parent or coach’s responsibility. As a parent you need to be proactive and scout for your kid.

Therese – If that is the way it is then OK.

Rules Chair – We try to find judges who are qualified to judge but may not be a “hunt” judge.

District 1 – The kids have to be versatile.

2nd Vice Chair – We try to fit the judges to the seat.

Motion to adjourn
District 9 – Motions
District 8 – Seconds
Passed

Adjourned 1:42 pm

Motions:

Agenda:

District 17 – Motions
District 1– Seconds
Passed

Minutes:

District 18 – Motions
District 19 – Seconds
Passed with Changes

Treasurer’s Report:

District 1 – Motions
District 9 – Seconds
Passed

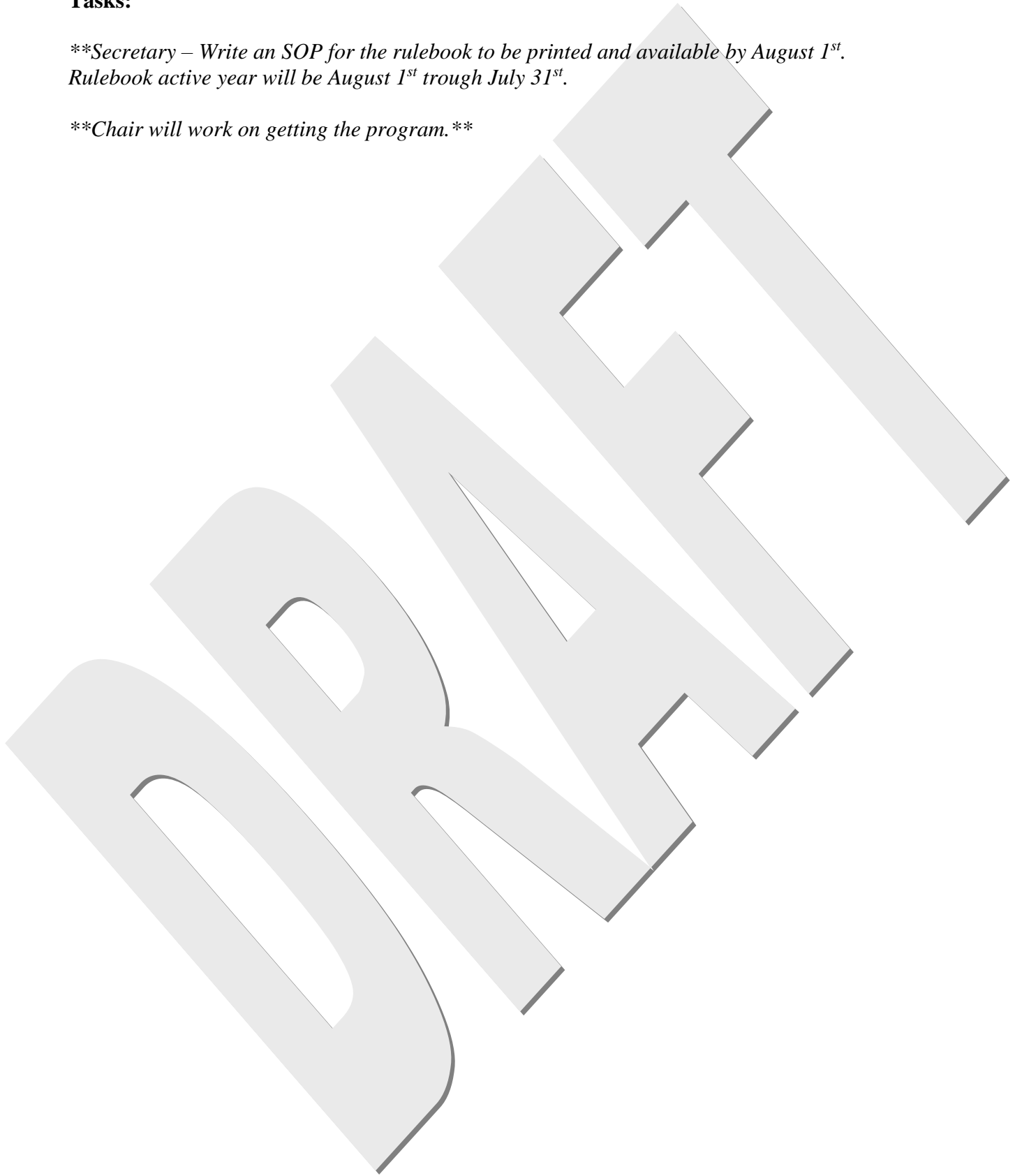
Adjourn:

District 9 – Motions
District 8 – Seconds
Passed

Tasks:

***Secretary – Write an SOP for the rulebook to be printed and available by August 1st. Rulebook active year will be August 1st through July 31st.*

Chair will work on getting the program.



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