

USDF EXECUTIVE BOARD (EB) MEETING

Zoom Meeting – October 16, 2024

This document is edited for posting on the USDF website and is not the official or complete version of the minutes of this meeting.

Members Present:

George Williams, President	Kevin Reinig, Vice President
Debra Reinhardt, Secretary	Bettina Longaker, Region 1 Director
Debby Savage, Region 2 Director	Charlotte Trentelman, Region 3 Director
Anne Sushko, Region 4 Director	Heather Petersen, Region 5 Director
Noah Rattner, Region 6 Director	Helen van der Voort, Region 8 Director
Bess Bruton, Region 9 Director	Susan Mandas, Activities Council Director
Sue McKeown, Technical Council Director	Anne Snipes Moss, Administrative Council Director

Members Absent: Lorraine Musselman, Treasurer; Regina Antonioli, Region 7 Director

Staff Attending: Stephan Hienzsch, Connie Huy, Sarah Garn, Kathie Robertson, Sarah Delahanty, Ross Creech, Krystina Wright, Melissa Schoedlbauer

Guest in attendance: None

The meeting commenced at 5:02 p.m. EST by Zoom teleconference.

Determination of quorum, roll call and conflicts of interest

Approval of agenda

Heather Petersen moved and Anne Snipes Moss seconded **to approve the agenda**. No Discussion. 13 Approved, 0 disapproved, and no abstentions. Motion carried.

President's remarks

The fall staff report sent out earlier this month showed how busy the office was during the summer and through the regional championships. George Williams noted the great job staff has done and thanked them.

Executive Director's remarks

Stephan Hienzsch asked for a minor change in the Policies and Procedures under "Affiliations and Memberships" that came to light with the para dressage edits previously incorporated. See the changes below. The reasoning was that it is not really relevant to USDF or to the USDF relationship to USEF as an affiliate to USEF. Helen van der Voort moved and Kevin Reinig seconded **to remove 'Breed' from the Policies and Procedures, I. General Information, B. Affiliations and Memberships, 1.d and 1.e**. No discussion. 13 Approved, 0 disapproved, and no abstentions. Motion carried.

I. General Information

B. Affiliations and Memberships (Pages 3-4)

Change to read, add new, and renumber remaining:

1. USDF shall maintain an “Affiliated Association” membership with the United States Equestrian Federation, Inc., (USEF). USDF is recognized by USEF as the “International Discipline Association” of “FEI Affiliate” organization representing the disciplines of dressage and para dressage in the United States. The USDF Executive Board (EB) shall coordinate with USEF to ensure compliance by USDF with USEF rules and requirements for its FEI affiliates, including the following responsibilities:
 - c. Elect two USDF member representatives to the USEF International Disciplines Council no later than 60 days prior to the USDF Annual Meeting. USDF shall publish to its membership via its website, its election procedures for its representative(s) to the USEF International Disciplines Council, and provide the USEF with a link to those procedures. (See USEF Bylaw 311, Section 2);
 - i. USDF EB Management Committee will nominate individuals for election by the EB.
 - ii. USDF representatives will be elected by a majority vote of the organization’s EB.
 - iii. Only USDF Participating Members (PMs) in good standing are eligible for nomination.
 - iv. Nominees are not required to be members of the EB.
 - v. Representatives will not receive reimbursement for expenses related to attending USEF meetings.
 - vi. Representatives should agree to attend USEF meetings and conference calls.
 - vii. Representatives must communicate the position of the EB to USEF and report back to the Board.
 - viii. Representatives must have knowledge of and experience in equestrian sport, including competencies that enhance the mission of the USEF.
 - ix. One of the two USDF representatives must have knowledge and experience in para dressage.
 - x. Representatives will oversee the USEF national and international sport programs for the FEI disciplines.
 - xi. All International Discipline Council members must have both international experience, as defined by USEF Bylaw 331.2, and an understanding of the dynamics and diversity of the sport nationally.
 - xii. Nominees and representatives must disclose any potential conflict of interest as defined in both the USDF and USEF Conflict of Interest Policies with regard to any financial or other transaction involving either USEF or USDF.
 - xiii. In the event that a representative resigns or can no longer complete his term, the USDF President will recommend an eligible candidate for approval by the Management Committee and election by the EB to serve the remainder of the term.
 - d. Appoint 33.3 percent of the USEF Dressage Sport Committee, which is the ~~Breed~~Discipline Committee for Dressage, on the timetable established by USEF. (See USEF Bylaw 503, Section 1);
 - e. Appoint 33.3 percent of the USEF Para-Equestrian Sport Committee, which is the ~~Breed~~Discipline Committee for para dressage, on the timetable established by USEF (See USEF Bylaw 503, Section 1);

2025-2026 Proposed Budget

The General Administration Budget had some increases from the previous budget presented in the spring meeting. In the revenue section, a \$20,000 increase from the USDF Operating Investments was added. These funds were needed because of the following increases in expenses.

- Increases in insurance expense due to the need to get a separate policy for sexual abuse coverage. Insurance will require making improvements in best practices which includes protocol and written procedures. As USDF will need to put into effect best practices for sexual abuse and Safe Sport, an outside consultant will be needed to develop these practices. This will increase the Consulting Services fee.
- The increase in legal fees is for if related legal help is required.

Noah Rattner moved and Kevin Reinig seconded **to approve the allocation of \$20,000 from USDF Operating Investments to the General Administration Budget.**

Discussion: Having in place best practices measures regarding Safe Sport and sexual misconduct in general will be a factor in the organization being able to obtain liability insurance coverage for sexual misconduct in the future. There was no disagreement with this premise. 13 Approved, 0 disapproved, and no abstentions. Motion carried.

Kevin Reinig moved and Heather Petersen seconded **to recommend the 2025-2026 Proposed Budget move forward to the Board of Governors for approval at the USDF convention in December 2024.** No Discussion. 13 Approved, 0 disapproved, and no abstentions. Motion carried.

Appointments to the USEF Dressage Sport Committee (DSC)

There are a total of 15 members on the DSC and 1/3 of the members are appointed by the USDF every four years. The 2021 USDF appointments were Kathy Connelly, Lisa Gorretta, Heather Petersen, Mike Osinski, and Gary Rockwell.

Noah Rattner moved and Charlotte Trentelman seconded **to approve Kevin Reinig, Heather Petersen, Lisa Gorretta, William Warren, and Amy Bradley as the USDF appointments to the 2025 USEF Dressage Sport Committee for a four-year term.** Discussion was on the attendance of the present members and if the proposed ones will have time. 10 Approved, 0 disapproved and Heather Petersen, Kevin Reinig, and Noah Rattner abstained. Motion carried.

Appointments to the USEF Para-Equestrian Committee (PESC)

There are a total of 12 members on the PESC and 1/3 of the members are appointed by the USDF. Current USEF PESC members whose terms end in 2025 are Charlotte Bredahl, Eleanor Brimmer, Barbara Grassmyer, David Botana, Cynthia Scenci, Roxanne Trunnell, Barbie Roth, Kerri Sowers, Christina Wentz, Allison Brock, and Kate Shoemaker. Heather Petersen moved and Noah Rattner seconded **to approve Bettina Longaker, Mike Tomlinson, Ellie Brimmer, and Joan Williams as the USDF appointments to the USEF Para-Equestrian Committee.** Discussion: Joan Williams works very well on committees. Mike Tomlinson is important as FEI Vet. Ellie Brimmer works hard with USDF and should be on the committee. 12 Approved, 0 disapproved and Bettina Longaker abstained. Motion carried.

USDF Para Dressage Committee roster

This is a new committee for USDF with the affiliations with Para Equestrian. Sue Mandas moved and Anne Snipes Moss seconded **to approve up to twelve members with the following appointments: Jean Kraus, Lehua Custer** (owner and coach of Para athlete at the 2022 World Championships), **Ellie Brimmer, Tina Wentz, Carole Laulis** (Thorncroft instructor/USPEA VP, Thorncroft program has Para Athletes), **Jennifer Baumert (Chair)** (Represented US at Pan Am games, coaches Para athletes), **Brian McQueeny** (Co-chief Executive and co-founder of Ride On), **Fiona Howard** (Triple gold medalist 2024 Paris Paralympics), **Joan Williams, Holly Bergay** (Para athlete from Colorado, competes as able-bodied, did NAYC), **Kristi Wysocki and Bettina Longaker to the USDF Para Dressage Committee.** Discussion about the size of the committee needing to stay at 12 members with the chair. 12 Approved, 0 disapproved and Bettina Longaker abstained. Motion carried.

Final USEF Pegasus Award nominations

This was an update on the nominations that USDF submitted to USEF.

The following have been submitted to USEF:

- Junior Equestrian of the Year – Kat Fuqua
- Pegasus Medal of Honor – Gary Rockwell, Lisa Gorretta, Lois Yukins
- Walter B. Devereux Sportsmanship Award – Debbie McDonald
- Lifetime Achievement Award – Lendon Gray
- Ellen Scripps Davis Memorial Breeders Cup – Maurine Swanson

The following will be submitted by November 1:

- Horse of the Year – Diamond Dunes
- Equestrian of the year – Fiona Howard

No discussion or motion needed.

2025 North American Youth Championships (NAYC) Selection Criteria; Junior/Young Rider and Children

The 2025 Selection Criteria for the new FEI Children division at NAYC were presented. The major change from the previous drafts is the inclusion of the Preliminary test as part of the qualifying criteria.

Heather Petersen moved and Helen van der Voort seconded **to approve the 2025 NAYC Selection Criteria; Junior, Young Rider and Children, as presented.** No Discussion. 13 Approved, 0 disapproved, and no abstentions. Motion carried.

Affiliate Member bylaws proposal submitted by Peter Rothschild

The original proposal, i.e. just Section 7, was sent to the GMO Committee. The basic outcome was, why join a GMO with this proposal? GMOs are working hard to get members and this would take away from them. The committee could not support this proposal.

The Competition Management Committee was given both Sections 7 and 8. Again, there was a large amount of discussion with the outcome that they could not support this proposal. This proposal would change the entire membership structure. First, the proposed date of implementation is way too soon as a feasibility study would need to be done with cost analysis. The revenue that USDF would receive from these 'added' members would not even come close

to covering the cost of the implementation and that does not consider the cost of the maintenance for program.

The reason for the proposal was to grow USDF membership and to allow more to be able to attend recognized shows. Shows presently offer opportunity classes, which require no memberships or horse registration. This allows non-members to compete at recognized shows. Again, the proposed \$25 fee does not come close to the cost of maintenance, tracking scores, etc.

Stephan Hienzsch mentioned in the past staff conducted major outreach programs and sent staff to many different organizations events in an effort to get new members to join. This included getting them to join as Education Members.

It is the feeling of the EB that we cannot support this proposal and we need to write an itemized and structured response. Before this can happen, since the GMO Committee was given the original proposal without the newly added Section 8, it needs to go back to them with this new portion of the proposal for feedback.

New Business

Sue McKeown asked for more communications with members on the pre-convention committee meetings. As USDF cannot send out e-mail blasts that frequently, she would like to put it on the agenda for when there will be discussion about the 2025 convention and see if there are other options.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m. EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Reinhardt
USDF Secretary