

OHSET State Board Meeting and General Meeting – December 4, 2010

OHSET State Board Meeting

In Attendance (underline denotes voting for district):

Scott Chauncey, Donna Espelien, Jan Harer, Beth McKinney (NW), Nick Meuret, Glen Sparkman (TRV), Paula Burton, Amber Edgerton, Jordan Devlaeminck (S), Ray Hickman, Kerenza Martin, Denise John, Wendy Bernards, Emily Bernards (W), Teresa Hoffman, Don Pack (NV), Chris Dinsmore, Phil Armstrong, Jessica Trottier (NE), Bill Weir (Co-ops and By-Laws), Joanna Grimmett, Brett Grimmett (SV), Anne Geser, Pam Steinke, Megen Hopper (C), Candi Bothum (State Chair), Karissa Dishon (State Vice Chair), Debi Ferrer (State Secretary), Karren Cholewinski (State Treasurer)

Vote count was 19, though the votes in the minutes will reflect that not all 19 were present at the start of the meeting.

Approval of November Minutes

Phil moved to accept the November minutes, Chris seconded; Vote – 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions

Co-ops (See Attachments at the end of these minutes for Co-op details)

- Bill presented three Standard Co-ops (McMinnville/Dayton, North Marion/Woodburn, Beaverton/Aloha) that had all paperwork completed. Phil moved to approve all three, motion was seconded; Vote – 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention
- Standard Co-op (Vernonia/Jewell) without paperwork completed – Donna moved to approve conditionally pending completion of paperwork, Don seconded; Vote – 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions; Co-op team may not practice until paperwork is completed and turned in.
- Non-standard Co-op (Lebanon/South Albany) – Denise moved to approve, Ray seconded; Discussion:
 - South Albany has had a team in the past, but school administrators have decided to take a year off of sponsoring a team, in part due to an injury suffered by a coach last year. School administrators are willing to co-op only with Lebanon High School. They co-op with Lebanon for all their other clubs and sports.
 - Vote – 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstentions
- Non-standard Co-op (Oregon City/Gladstone) – Chris moved to approve, Denise seconded; Discussion:
 - There is an option for the Gladstone athletes to ride with Wilson High School which would create a standard co-op, but the athletes and their families don't want to do this.
 - This involves a cross-district co-op and neither district is willing to recommend.
 - There is considerable concern among board members that approving co-op applications like this would open the door to athletes choosing the "best" teams to ride with, rather than trying to represent their school.
 - Vote – 0 in favor, 14 opposed, 4 abstentions (from NE and TRV districts)

Other Eligibility Issues

Northeast has a home-schooled athlete who was eligible at the end of the last year in regular school, but switched to home-school this year. The athlete failed to register with the local ESD before the first day of school, which is the OSAA requirement, but is now registered with the ESD. They are seeking an exception to this eligibility requirement. Bill said that OSAA gets many such requests for OSAA sports and they usually grant the requests. Chris moved to approve this request for an exception to the eligibility requirements, Denises seconded; Vote – 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions

Pattern Approvals

- We have not yet approved Hunt Seat Over Fences as it was still being worked on. Denise moved to approve what we were presented today, Ray seconded; 19 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.
- Scott asked to make sure we use a correct quarter round at state. Candi said she'd send a picture around of what Central's looks like.

Change Names of Drill Events

Candi said Karen Bragg strongly suggested we change the name of Working Fours to Freestyle Fours, and change Short Program to Freestyle Six and Over. This matches better with real-world drill. The consensus of the group was to go ahead and do this.

Rule Change Re-consideration

We made a rule change that requires non-athletes handling a horse in an event to have certain attire (boots, no spurs, etc.), but we did not make any consequences. This would affect IHOR, Canadian Flags, Driving, Roping and Daubing. Discussion:

- In timed events, it could be a 5 second penalty, but in performance, it could be a penalty in the horsemanship score.
- Different judges might handle it differently. We want to try to be consistent.
- A 5-second penalty in timed events would put the team completely out of the running, but a few points penalty might not be as severe in performance events. Can we make this equitable?
- Does this apply also to various people helping them into the arena?
- Pam said at a district level you could choose to escort improperly attired handler off of the course.
- Suspending rule would give us a chance to warn people without penalizing athlete.
- Denise moved to not adopt this rule this year for IHOR and Canadian Flags (but keep for Driving as it was already in place) and re-visit it next year. Don seconded; Vote – 17 In favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions

Recorders For Drill

Karissa shared details of the recorders she ordered for State Championships: Olympus Digital Voice Recorder VN-7600PC purchased at Costco. Candi said Costco might give a discount if they know what it's for. Districts would need three.

Other Business

- Scott brought up the concern about the proposed change in by-laws that we'll be voting on today. We didn't consider the impact it might have on co-ops. We're probably okay for this year, but need to think about it for next year.
- Denise asked about ordering timers. Candi said to email her if you want any electronic equipment. Send her name of contact person with a phone number.
- ALL Insurance – will cover all board members, athletes, registered coaches and advisors, but it will not cover contracted people like judges, and it will not cover short-term volunteers, including those signed up as unattached volunteers.
- Districts need to send email to Louanne list of your practice locations within your district.
- Candi needs to everyone to email her how many rule books you need. Remember each team gets one for every athlete plus 2 extras for a coach and advisor. More than that, teams have to buy.

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OHSET General Meeting

Candi Bothum called the meeting to order and introduced board members and committee chairs.

Announcements

We had a great volunteer training program last month. All those who attended felt it was very valuable. We will probably do it again next year about the same time of year, so let people know ahead of time to plan on it. Let's get as many people there as possible.

Presentation Highlights

- OHSET is special. Few states have such an opportunity for high school equestrian athletes. We are the front-runner in Regional and National High School Equestrian Sports. We provide leadership opportunities for our athletes and the chance to represent their school on a team.
- Challenges – Maintaining diversity in our events and quality in judging so many different events; liability and risk management.
- Strengths – Integrity, we follow our rules and By-laws. Credibility, we are always working to improve.
- OHSET's future – NCAA and IHSA colleges are recruiting our athletes. Other states are looking at our program and starting their own programs. Washington did a few years ago. Idaho will be starting a program next year. We're working on a marketing strategy

that will benefit OHSET and be able to be transferred to other states who want to start up similar programs.

- What are we doing now? SOGs, new points system, continually improving our rulebook, Karissa has worked to improve our website, including getting automatic emails whenever a new announcement is posted.
- How can you help? Demonstrate integrity at all times, volunteer, make sure we all follow the rules. For instance, if there is an athlete who is not wearing a helmet and has an accident, we will most likely lose our insurance and it could mean the end of our organization. We all need to help enforce the rules.
- Two focuses to support our mission: 1. Credibility 2. Ethics and Integrity
- Communication – follow the chain of command!
- Medical Insurance – New for this year. It's been very hard to make sure athletes' medical insurance is current (since we only check it at the start of the season). So, we're providing insurance for athletes, registered volunteers, and state board members. \$2500 per incident, \$5000 maximum, covered going to and from and during scheduled OHSET events. You have 90 days to make a claim. Claim form will be online, take it to the District Chair, then it will go to State Chair.
- Liability Insurance – covers spectators if something happens at one of our events. This would also cover unattached volunteers in the program but it would NOT cover parents, athletes, coaches and advisors. Dogs are NOT allowed at events, according to our liability insurance. Service dogs must be allowed wherever its owner goes, but we have a responsibility to our athletes and our organization, so if a service dog is in a place that is causing any problem with a horse and athlete, you could ask politely and explain that some horses are afraid of dogs and having a dog in place could endanger the athlete. Another option is to close down the entire area where the service dog is and ask everyone to move from the area. USEF offers a \$60 policy to cover individuals while helping at any equestrian event, and it's a good policy.

Rule Change Highlights

- Process – There is a form on website for rule change submissions, available to anyone involved in OHSET. Any time during the season you find something that needs revision (typos, cleaning up rule book to major rule changes) submit it. Rules Committee meets in August and will discuss every submission. Rules Committee makes recommendations, which go back to districts and to judges clinic in September; Districts and Judges comment on those recommendations and then they go back to the Rules Committee for final decisions. Rules aren't changed at other times unless it is related to safety or there is some other urgency.
- Fewer and fewer rules changes seem to be needed as our rule book has gotten better over the years.
- Drill - This year it will be freestyle for both Fours and Six and Over. This means, no paperwork is required to be turned in, no required or drawn maneuvers, and focus will be on execution, originality, spectacularity, degree of difficulty. All maneuvers will still be on the website, but teams can create new ones also. The question came up about

having a team of 5 – as it stands now, our rules say you can't, so this would have to be a rule change request for next year.

- Dressage – no readers and no whips at State Championships, to match USDF rules which don't allow these things at championship shows.
- Breed Specific showing will be allowed in showmanship, which means that some breeds may be shown in a bridle. For instance in Arabs, if you show in hunter style attire and braid horse, you may show in hunter or dressage bridle; it's recommended that if you have an unusual breed, you bring rules for showing so judges know exactly what is acceptable for your breed-specific showing. You may still show these breeds in a halter. The rule change is just to make showing to breed specifications an option.
- Addition of "degree of difficulty" to Pairs score sheet – this is not a rule change, but it is an attempt to address a rule change proposal that was submitted about using two hands on curb bits, and other things that are generally not allowed in a performance class. The decision was made to not change the rule, so riders who need extra equipment to manage their horses but still want to participate in Working Pairs can do so, but to provide a mechanism that allows judges to distinguish between someone who rides with two hands on a curb bit and uses a tie down and someone who rides with one hand and no tie down, which has a higher degree of difficulty. In the past, judges often deducted some points in every element for this, and this will move it all to the "degree of difficulty" category.
- Events may not be mandatory for team participation; teams may make participation in certain events required for lettering, but not for participation in OHSET.
- Practice obstacles may be set up with permission from officials at State Championship meet, but those obstacles must be open to every participant, not only one team.
- State meet patterns may change from district patterns. Skills in the pattern won't change, but order or direction of elements may (exception – Dressage, Working Pairs, Hunt Seat Eq. Over Fences); State patterns will be posted by May 1, 2011.

By-laws Changes

- By-laws are a requirement for a non-profit organization, and those are only allowed to be changed once a year.
- The only change we need to vote on this year is in Article IV – Membership, A3; Change to read "All High Schools who have a participating team must have a signature of a High School Administrator that either approves team participation or approves the use of the school's name for an OHSET team.
- Denise moved to approve this change, Ray seconded. Vote – 19 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

Patterns

- Patterns are put together by a judges' committee and are tested with horses over and over again.

- After today, if you have questions, go to your district chair who will then go to the judges' chair. Clarifications will be answered to everyone, and will go on the website. Sign up for the OHSET newsletter on the website so updates will be sent directly to you. Look in the section labeled "expectations" before you ask questions. A lot of clarifications are there.
- Hunt Seat Eq Over Fences
 - Can we assume that at the state meet, all jumps will be at the highest mark? Yes.
 - So, can districts start at lower end at first meet and move up to maximum by last meet? Yes.
 - If a rider makes an extra circle out on the course, that's considered a refusal. Riders are allowed 2 refusals. If there are three refusals, that is considered an elimination.
 - Is there a possibility that at State, one of the fences will become a required trot fence? Yes.
- Hunt Seat Equitation
 - Interrupted changes will receive a score of zero.
- IHOR
 - The haunch turn half on and half off the bridge is the optional element, so if they don't want to do it, they can just walk off the bridge and head back across the finish line.
 - Any gait can be used between elements where gait is not specified.
- In-hand Trail / Trail
 - Element 2 – you should travel over the pole to enter the box.
 - Do you go past the first cone before starting the back (elements 5 and 6)? It would be best to go all the way through the cones so the hip is through the cones and you start to turn the corner. This sets you up to back through the cones.
 - Is it specified what side of the horse athlete is on? See "Expectations."
 - Clarification of "refusal" - If the movement is supposed to be forward, and horse takes a step backward, that's a refusal. If movement is supposed to be backward and horse takes a step forward, that's a refusal. It was suggested we add this to the "Expectations." Karissa said she would.
 - Remove arrow on Trail diagram going into gate.
 - Does handler have to be on inside of box and chute? Yes.
- Working Pairs
 - "Change Leads" is not specific. What's best? Whatever the pair can do best together.
- Reining

- For those that aren't familiar with reining patterns, be aware that the large circles should be on the same track but they are drawn on different tracks just to show that there are two large circles. And in the center, when changing directions, those should be on the circle track, too, not at a diagonal as is shown. It is shown this way in reining patterns just to avoid overlapping lines.
- Can horses change pivot foot in spins? As per NRHA rules, yes. See NRHA rules for clarifications.
- Read the expectations carefully.

- Saddle Seat
 - What kind of lead changes? The smoothest and best quality lead change you can do.
 - How many steps in the back? It will be judged on quality rather than number of steps.
 - In general for all patterns, don't close back unless it specifically says.

- Stock Seat
 - After the back, immediately jog out of arena. You don't need to wait for judge to acknowledge. Is this true for every pattern? Probably not. Any pattern that ends with a halt and doesn't say to leave immediately, wait for the judge to acknowledge. Some patterns say to wait to be dismissed.

- Working Rancher
 - What exactly does it mean to not scatter the cattle? Demonstrate cow sense. If they are restless and move around a lot through no fault of rider, rider needs to adjust what he/she is doing.
 - Can cattle be settled ahead of time by an adult? Yes, districts can organize this as needed, but it cannot be an OHSET rider and it cannot be an OHSET horse. The adult should be a registered volunteer.
 - District chairs need to make sure their volunteers know when to step in and help close gate so cattle don't get out.
 - What if cattle are laying down on edge? Should rider move cattle to the center? We need to ask some more experienced cattle event judges and the answer will be posted on website.
 - Which way will the gate open? It will be a standard left hand push gate.
 - What happens if cattle get out? Officials need to think about this. Watch for a clarification on the website.
 - What if cattle are really nervous, might it be inappropriate to jog as the pattern shows? Yes, the emphasis is on cattle sense. So a judge should score you higher if it looks like you're taking into consideration the cattle, not just following the pattern.
 - How big will the diameter of the log be? Karissa will get this posted on the website.

- There will be a video on the website showing this pattern with narration by an experienced judge.
- Athlete will toss own rope off to side before picking up rope to drag log.
- Does the log have to straight when you're done dragging it around the circle? It's pretty hard to get it straight. Try to get it between the barrels – a small angle will be okay.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Co-ops Voted on at Meeting on 12-4-2010

Standard Co-Ops --- State Board approved as one group

North Valley

Host School: McMinnville HS with 5 riders

Co-Op School: Dayton HS with 1 riders

Co-Op Forms signed by both schools. Dayton has been canvassed. Approved by North Valley District. Dayton has only 1 rider; not enough interest to support sponsoring a team.

Standard Co-Op

North Valley

Host School: North Marion HS with 5 riders

Co-Op School: Woodburn HS with 2 riders

Co-Op Forms signed by both schools. Woodburn has been canvassed. Approved by North Valley District. Woodburn has only 2 riders; no school approval; no parental support or advisor.

Standard Co-Op

NorthWest

Host School: Beaverton HS with 5 riders

Co-Op School: Aloha HS with riders

Co-Op Forms signed by both schools. Aloha has been canvassed. Approved by NorthWest District. Aloha has only 1 Senior rider; no parental support or advisor.

Standard Co-Op

Standard Co-Ops --- State Board conditionally approved

NorthWest

Host School: Vernonia HS with 3 riders

Co-Op School: Jewell HS with 1 rider

Co-Op Forms signed by both schools. Jewell has been canvassed. Approval by NorthWest pending. Jewell HS has only 1 rider; no parental support or advisor.

Standard Co-Op

Conditionally approved, pending approval by NorthWest District. Jewell rider may not practice or compete until the NW district approves at their next board meeting, signs off on Co-Op form, forwards it to the Co-Op Chair, and received confirmation that the signed Co-OP was received.

Non-Standard Co-Ops --- State Board approved individually

Willamette

Host School: Lebanon HS with 16 riders

Co-Op School: South Albany HS with 2 riders

Co-Op Forms signed by both schools. South Albany has been canvassed. Approved by Willamette District. South Albany has only 2 riders; no school approval this year.

Non-Standard Co-Op

Co-Op NOT approved by State Board:

NorthEast

Proposed Host School: Oregon City HS with 15 riders

Proposed Co-Op School: Gladstone HS with 2 riders

No Co-Op Form.

The exceptions to OHSET Cooperative Sponsorship Rules required for this Co-Op would include:

- 1 – Not going to nearest eligible OHSET team in District
- 2 - Co-Op going to large team (10 or more)
- 3- No approval from sponsoring School OHSET team
- 3- No approval from current district's for cross district Co-Op,
- 4 - No approval from sponsoring district's for cross district Co-Op
- 5 - Exceptions to only schools Co-Op, not families or individual

Non-Standard Co-Op – ***Approval Denied by State Board.***