

## **OHSET State Board Meeting Minutes May 2, 2010**

**In Attendance:** Denise John, Ray Hickman, Wendy Bernards (Willamette), Donna Espelien, Scott Chauncey (NW), Jaleesa Mobley, Ethan Keeney, Jill Burnette, Dawn Keeney (South Valley), Karren Cholewinski (State Treasurer), Cahdi Bothum (State Chair), Karissa Dishon (State Vice Chair), Bill Weir (Co-ops), Anne Geser, Pam Steinke (Central), Don Pack, Laurie Pack (North Valley), Phil Armstrong (Northeast), Glen Sparkman, Todd Gary (TriRiver Valley), Jim Roper (Southern)

### **Housekeeping**

- Karissa reviewed who has turned in drill patterns so far. There are a couple missing, which may have made it in the mail yesterday, but she left before the mail arrived. If they are late, they will be sent to the judges, but with a note they were received late and are to be judged accordingly.
- Insurance – a coach broke her pelvis during an OHSET activity and inquired about our OHSET insurance. Our insurance doesn't cover any medical, only liability. American Insurance Life could provide us with minimal coverage for \$2 per person for all activities associated with OHSET. Candi said she thinks we need to consider purchasing this for all athletes and all coaches and advisors next year.
- An issue that came up in one district – an athlete became pregnant. The question is can she compete in OHSET. Candi said the answer is yes, but we need to get medical release from a physician. Other concerns...
  - Though some people may consider this a poor representation for OHSET, our organization cannot discriminate.
  - As coaches, if you have signed volunteer forms through the school, you are probably a mandatory reporter, so if the athlete is under age, there could be some legal requirements in terms of reporting abuse. Candi will check on getting a small workshop about mandatory reporting at our annual meeting.
- If a district holds a stewardship committee meeting at Meet 2 to decide, for example, if a team penning team can ride with two because one athlete on the team is academically ineligible, and they do it again for the same team at Meet 3, and this team qualifies for State, do they have to go all the way to the State Meet and then ask for a stewardship committee? Candi said, no, we could arrange a phone stewardship committee meeting.
  - Some discussion ensued about what reasons there might be for a stewardship committee to allow a team penning or other team to ride short. Currently, our rules state this would be allowed only for horse or rider medical reasons. Some districts are using stewardship meetings to approve many other kinds of excuses for riding short, including academic ineligibility. Candi reminded everyone that they can say "No" to a request for a stewardship committee meeting.

**March Minutes** – It was moved and seconded to approve the March 28, 2010 minutes. There were no corrections or additions. Vote: 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions

## **Photos and Videos**

- Candi is collecting photos for the 2011 rule book. Please get them to her. Whatever she doesn't get by the state meet she will fill in with photos from the state meet.
- Karissa is collecting videos to go on our website.

## **Judge's Evaluations**

- Some districts are not submitting evaluations. We really need to make sure they are turned in in a timely manner so that we can continue to educate our judges and to make sure we are hiring the best judges available.
- Are the judge's evaluations confidential? Legally, no. What happens is that the Judges' Chair looks at those and goes over them with the judges, but doesn't give the actual papers out or give the names of people who may have given critical evaluations. But, if the judge asks to see them, legally, we have to show them because it is like a personnel file.

## **State Championships Update**

- Jim Roper reported that Southern District is meeting today to put together teams for working on the state meet. It takes a huge amount of manpower.
- Shavings are included in the stall fees. They will be in piles.
- Jim asked that athletes strip the stalls when they leave. If they leave before Sunday, they need to haul it to the manure pile. If they leave on Sunday, they can leave it out in the aisle.
- Jim asked if another district can bring an extra set of pole-bending poles. Willamette district (Ray Hickman) volunteered to bring a set.
- Dog issue – Candi checked with the extension office to see if a dog 4H club would be willing to serve as the "canine patrol" to make sure dogs aren't in Compton arena.
  - Wendy said she worried that if people were breaking the rule to start, they would just ignore the 4H kids, too.
  - Denise said her district gave written citations – first was a warning, then a fine for \$25, third time it's a \$50 fine. They didn't have dog problems at their district meets.
  - Consensus was that we want to make this a rule; we will all take responsibility to enforce this.
- Basket auction – each district should bring one, with things representative of their region. Athletes will be helping to sell these. Karren said last year we only made about \$750 but their were thousands of dollars in value, so we need to work harder at selling these and making it a good fund-raiser.
- Jim asked for the names of the judges so they can be put on the program. Candi said she would get those names to him.
- Vendors – we have 22 so far. Jim's going to ask each vendor to come up with a "special" which will be announced at some time during the meet.
  - What if a district wants to sell something as a fund-raiser? Do they need to pay a vendor fee? The consensus was, No, as long as it's not in competition with some

of our vendors. However, districts should talk to Sherri Smith to arrange a space for selling the items.

- Jim asked that the music for drills and pairs be collected by district chairs and turned in at the board meeting on Thursday meeting at state. Please have the music ready on a CD or flash drive.
- Grand Entry – Donna asked everyone to email her the name of each person who will be carrying a flag, specialty flags, district flags, and team flags. She asked that it be seniors who carry the team flags if possible, but if you don't have any seniors to carry the team flags, it can be someone else. She needs the names of all seniors on every team and she needs to know if they are riding or not. We will just be announcing their team and their names, they'll ride around the arena then exit. The ones carrying the specialty flags and district flags will be standing in the middle for the whole time, so they need to be athletes with horses that can stand still.
- Reminder about volunteers for events – please get experienced scribes and gate people.
- Donna said she thinks we need to have EMTs on site. Jim said we did have them at the state meet last year. Candi thought maybe we had them just for the high risk events.
  - Denise moved to hire EMTs on the grounds for all the events we can during competition, with those having the greatest risk taking priority, up to an expense of \$5000. Scott seconded it.
    - Discussion – if they are needed by spectators, would we pull them away from covering athletes? Yes, we'd probably have to.
    - Vote: In favor – 15, Opposed – 0, Abstentions – 0
- Jim is working with the fairgrounds to lay wiring underground to the camping area so we won't need generators! There's a small expense to pay someone to run some equipment, but it can come out of state meet contingency fund.
- Phil asked about riding restrictions – What is Jackson County Fairground's rule?
  - Consensus: Athletes must use helmets, boots, bridles, and a number. Bareback is okay. No riding double. Adults, non-athletes may only ride outside the exterior fence.
- Tough enough to wear pink bandanas – Donna recommends we put words only that say "2010 OHSET State Championship." We need to get approval from Wrangler for anything going along with their logo.
- After the final schedule/matrix comes out, remember that district chairs/vice chairs are the only people can make changes. We don't need to go through the office to change within our own districts but we do need to go through the office if an athlete needs to be moved out of the district order.
  - Priority arena will be Compton.
  - Team events will take priority over individual events.
- Golf carts will be available. There is a vendor. Districts need to take care of this on their own. There will be a form that must go on the golf cart stating what district and who is driving. Licensed drivers only. Vendor is Absolute Golf Carts (541-956-9701).
- People may move into the fairgrounds anytime after 8 am Wednesday.
- Dawn said her district would like to organize a dance. Rather than having everyone pay a fee to get in, could every district pay a fee of \$40? Some districts said they would have

to get back to their districts for approval. Dawn will email info out to everyone tonight. Please get back to her as soon as possible.

- Someone in South Valley set up recycling bags all around the grounds during their district meets. They collected baling twine, plastic water bottles, plastic woven feedbags in huge superbags, which was then collected by a recycling group who paid them by the pound for their plastic and they made about \$200. Not a fortune, but a really good public awareness. Dawn encouraged all our districts to do something similar at our meets. Jim said there will be recycling containers at the state meet fairgrounds. It was suggested we announce that and encourage people to use them.
- Big R – Candi has had trouble getting a response from Big R about our State Meet. Finally, when she got some information from them, she was told that they expected that part of what they provided to be in merchandise. But, when they were asked what merchandise, they couldn't really come up with anything. In the end, they offered only \$2500 (not the \$5000 they originally said), but they said we could use it for whatever we choose. Candi said they've been really hard to work with, and next year, she said we need to have an agreement in writing by January, and if it's not what we think is reasonable, we need to go after other donors.
- Awards
  - Karrissa provided a handout with updated awards sponsors. Currently, we have \$2050 in donations, and the estimated expenses are about \$3,766. Please continue to look for additional sponsors.
  - She also mentioned that it's cheaper to sponsor a special award like High Point, than it is to sponsor a class. We may want to think about if we want to adjust this somehow, like maybe have a high point and reserve high point award. These are things to think about for the future.
- Tough Enough to Wear Pink – The way it works is that we spend at least \$250 on products and then we can use their logo. They ask that any funds we raise go to a local breast cancer charity. Sherri and Candi are working together to select a suitable charity. We'll be selling the pink bandanas with "2010 OHSET State Championship" and maybe doing some sort of "pass the hat" or 50/50 fundraiser.
  - We decided earlier that athletes need to follow uniform guidelines during competition but that we'll give them a warning before a DQ if someone slips through the gate with their bandana on.
  - Jim moved that State board pay for pink shirts for district chairs and vice chairs; Dawn seconded it. Jim amended it to include state chair and state vice chair, and up to a maximum of \$500.
    - Discussion – should it include committee chairs, adult reps, youth reps? Consensus was no.
    - Vote: 14-0-0
  - Candi said that even though we already drew who will be carrying specialty flags, and the TETWP flag would be part of it, maybe if there is someone whose life has been affected by breast cancer, that person could carry the flag. The consensus was that this is a good idea. So, email Candi if you know of someone who might want to do this.

### **Practicing**

- Teams are allowed to practice until the state championships, unless school has other rules. Check with your schools.

### **State Board of Education Activity Registration**

- Requires school-related organizations to register. We've never done this, but we need to, and we are now doing it.

### **Video Evidence**

- A district DQ'd an athlete based on private video evidence. We CANNOT do this. Where do we stop then? Our rules say that the judges' decision is final and that's the way we need to keep it. If someone asks for a stewardship meeting based on this, tell them NO. And if they complain, tell them to call Candi.
- In another case, someone called from the audience that an athlete's sleeves were rolled up, and the athlete was DQ'd. This is different because the athlete is still on course. Maybe it's not very good sportsmanship, but if the judge DQs at the time the athlete is on course, that's legitimate. But to look at still or video photo evidence after the fact is not okay.

### **Re-districting Meeting**

- Reps are chosen, meeting will be sometime in June, and will be somewhere in the I-5 corridor. Karissa will let everyone know.

### **Reminders**

- Each district may bring 2 roping dummies to the state meet. Remember that no practice obstacles may be set up by anyone other than a state meet official.
- Candi will try to get bulletin boards for each district there then will take them back and store them in Redmond for the next three state championships.
- Bring music for pairs and drill board meeting on Thursday May 13 (9:30 am) at State Championships.
- Don't forget to bring your athletes' paperwork – Code of Conduct, Registration/Health forms. They cannot participate otherwise.
- Bring senior profiles.
- Bring a basket for the silent auction.
- Let your districts know about TEWP on Saturday of the State Meet.

### **New Points Program**

- Don Pack is putting together a proposal for a new points program. He is a computer programmer and thinks he can create a more user-friendly program with fewer programs and have it ready for the next competition year.
- Denise said one of the major problems her district had with the current program was that it didn't have directions. Don will make sure this one has good directions.

## Scholarships

- Donna said we got about 50, which is really good. It's been a busy week.
- There was a glitch in the email with the state website. Donna said for some reason she didn't get all of the pieces from some people because the state website didn't forward everything to her as it should have. But she is giving people the benefit of the doubt and sending the info on to her judges while trying to collect the missing pieces of information.
- Winners will be announced at State during the awards ceremony.
- Debi brought up that she was told by a parent of an athlete planning to ride for an NCAA equestrian team next year that since our scholarship no longer includes grades as one of the criteria, NCAA athletes may not accept the scholarship, according to NCAA rules. The consensus about this was that we need to make our scholarship criteria such that our athletes who go on to ride for a college team are eligible to receive our scholarship. Candi will talk to Jan Harer, our college liaison, and ask her to find out more about NCAA and other college rules.

## Other Judging Issues

- Donna said that a lot of our judges don't know how to run the timers, particularly in the cattle events. Maybe we need to include this training in our judges' training. They need to practice.
- Also, the parents who volunteer and do the back-up timing don't always take it as seriously as they should.
- Denise raised the concern about the increased cost of having judges be responsible for the line in IHOR.
  - Karissa said that this year's pattern is a perfect example of why we need two judges for IHOR – the line judge has to watch carefully when athletes cross the line, and since there's a point value for what's going on behind the line now, the line judge has to be watching that while the other judge is watching the athlete on course.
- Candi said she's not sure how to bring consistency and thus credibility to our districts, other than going over things event by event at our district chairs retreat. Another thing we need to discuss at that retreat is what we hold stewardship committee meetings for.
- Wendy said we need to encourage our teams to get their coaches to a new coaches training this fall. It will be somewhere in the I-5 corridor.
- Jim asked us to reconsider how we score team penning because teams getting one cow in all three tries will beat a team that gets three cows each in two tries. Denise and Wendy added that there are teams in their districts that teach their athletes to get one cow as quickly as possible in all three tries. A lot of discussion ensued, but the end result was that our rules are the same as national team penning rules, and it's probably not the rules that need to be changed but the level of competition. In some districts, if you don't get 9 cows, you won't have a chance, so the teams going for just one each time won't be very competitive at state.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- Thursday May 13 – Central Point, Office/Main Arena, 9:30 am
- State Meet 2010 – May 13-16
- Sunday June 13 – Gateway Mall, 9:30 am
- Saturday August 28 – Gateway Mall, 9:30 am
- Sunday August 29 – Rules Committee #1 – Gateway Mall, 9:30 am (There was some discussion about adding this to the end of the Saturday meeting, but Candi felt it might make Saturday 10-12 hours long. She will send out a Doodle email for people to choose, along with some dates for Rules Committee Meeting #2)
- Saturday October 2 – Gateway Mall, 9:30 am
- Saturday November 6 – Gateway Mall, 9:30 am
- Saturday December 4 – Annual Meeting, Time and Place TBA