

Oregon High School Equestrian Teams State Board Minutes – September 25, 2011

Present (underline denotes voting)

Karren Cholewinski (Treasurer), Pam Steinke, Anne Geser (Central), Laurie Pack, Don Pack, Lea Hudson (North Valley), Mandi Hanson (South Valley), Chris Dinsmore, Phil Armstrong (Northeast), Peggy Smith (Southern), Donna Sparkman, Glen Sparkman (TriRiver Valley), Emily Bernards, Wendy Bernards, Denise John (Willamette), Donna Espelien, Scott Chauncey (Northwest), Karissa Dishon (Vice Chair), Candi Bothum (Chair), Debi Ferrer (Secretary)

Scholarships

- We need to update the forms on the website to show that they are for 2012. Donna said that everything else should be okay. The major trouble last year was that there were so many files that came in at different times, and it was really hard for the judges. Donna said that next year she and Debi will put all the documents associated with one athlete into one PDF document.
- The consensus of the board was that they'd like to put more of the responsibility for making sure all documents are turned in on time back on the athlete, perhaps putting a disclaimer on the website and forms that it is the athlete's responsibility to check back with the people they asked to write their letters of recommendations to make sure they are submitted by the deadline.

Volunteers / Coaches /Advisors Trainings

Denise said there are still some spots available. There are about 30-40 teams represented so far. Some topics include...

- Fundraising
- Team rules
- When you can say no (overmounting)
- Ethics
- Dealing with difficult people
- Round table
- First responders

Points

- Don said he is making a few minor changes, including automating the order of go, for next year.
- Districts will need to update their program because last year's will have timed out.
- Don sent WAHSET a trial version and they are trying it out.

Rule Book Ads

- Page 97 in the rule book has the form.
- Debi will send an electronic version out along with the minutes so please send them out to everyone you can think of.
- We really should have some big sponsors in this rule book – like Northwest Supplements, Coastals, Horseguard, etc. We need to be careful, however, that we're not pulling out support from a district sponsor.
- Also, encourage teams or parents to take out ads wishing their own athletes good luck.
- Debi will send out an email to past sponsors asking them to sponsor again, and will send out a master list to the board so they can follow up with some of the sponsors they know.

Uniform S.O.G

- Karissa included rules so people didn't have to look in two places. Some board members felt that added confusion – which are rules, which are SOGs? Which result in a DQ, which don't? Perhaps we shouldn't have an SOG and rules on the same document.
- Peggy said some schools have a rule against bandannas so we should probably not allow any schools to ride with them.
- Under "2. Pants" the a-e looks like it applies only to saddle seat pants which it doesn't. Karissa said that can be cleaned up.
- According to the SOG, "wild rags" would be allowed for warmth, the same as turtlenecks. However, there is concern that the "wild rags" really aren't for warmth, but for decoration, and even in warm weather, teams will still be wearing them.
- Northeast district feels pretty unanimously that the wild rags should not be allowed.
- We should also have a number size requirement.
- Wendy said she thinks bling on pants shouldn't matter. Let's focus on the polo shirt, the size of the numbers, and allow a little flexibility on the pants because it's harder to control, and harder for judges to decide which amount of decorative stitching and bling is too much.
- Phil said that our rules currently clearly indicate "No adornments are allowed on uniform." (2.4.6.1)
- Candi pointed out that we're not bringing this up again because we like to discuss it. We have to discuss it because parents and athletes keep asking us to allow it. She said she thinks the best thing is to keep things simple. You can buy pants without bling. We need to use other high school sports as our model, and they don't allow fashion to dictate.
- An athlete presented her perspective – her coach always told them all buttons need to be buttoned, no undergarments showing, gloves on, pants over boots, clean equipment. Bling or adornments were never an option on her team.
- Consensus was the following:
 - No bling at all. Decorative stitching is okay. We'll add it to the rules and include pictures on the website.

- Clothing may be worn under the uniform (intention is for warmth, not for adornment) but it may not be higher than chin of athlete, and may not hang out in any way.
- No bandannas or wild rags.
- Current rule says school logos only may be on the team uniform but many teams have made their own equestrian team logo. Some school sports teams have variations on the school logo, so why not equestrian teams. Consensus was to modify the rules to say “one logo representing your school,” left or right chest.
- Pants in or Pants out? Every judge will mark kids down in performance classes. In gaming, it doesn’t matter.
- Karissa suggested that an SOG would be helpful for the kids who have coaches who don’t know these expectations, so they don’t have to learn what judges expect when they get points deducted at their first OHSET meet. It might be best not to mix the rules in with the SOGs on the SOG sheet, and simply say be sure to read the rules, page _____. And in the rule book, add see uniform SOG, page _____. (Rules and SOGs will all be in the rule book this year.)
- Peggy reminded us that it is the responsibility of district chairs to make sure athletes have this information. It was suggested that we try to make sure our coaches and advisors hear it at the November training.
- Karissa asked, as a judge, for the board to consider NOT making the bling on jeans part of our rules, because she wants to judge equitation, not watch their pants pockets. If it’s in the rules, she has to DQ, and she may not catch every one. If one gets DQ’d and she misses another, she would feel really bad. If it is a guideline, then it’s not a DQ, but the judge may deduct points. Coaches need to be willing to demand that their athletes wear appropriate clothing.
- Consensus was that we need to move on; can we leave this for the rules committee to iron out? Yes.

Work Session

- Candi would like every district represented; chairs and vice chairs should be there.
- Board meeting will take place, followed by work session.
- We still need to find a place that will work for 16-20 people.
- Topics?
 - Stewardship
 - Awards
 - How we treat volunteers, rules volunteers must abide by
 - How do districts treat event changes during meets; other meet processes
 - School relations, dealing with coaches and advisors
 - Budget, including state board fees for the future
 - Eligibility, grades, home-schools
 - Recruitment
 - Fundraisers?
 - Do we need to look at an executive director, an accountant?

Registration Forms

- New forms will be put on the web very quickly. The forms on the web say 2012, but they do need some fixes. Candi will email correct forms asap and have them on the website as soon as webmaster can get them posted.

Budget

Karren presented a 4-year comparison of income and expenses.

- One of the things that she noted was that membership has dropped off and maybe districts need to focus more on recruitment. There were not as many participants in judging clinic this past year, either.
- Karren said our accountant asked her if our scholarship fund is a restricted fund. Denise added that this would be a fund that would protect those monies in the event of lawsuits, bankruptcy, and other things. A restricted account would have to be reviewed annually (internal audit). Karren and Candi will have a discussion with accountant to determine if there is an advantage one way or the other for OHSET.
- Where do we want to take the budget? Peggy pointed out that we really came pretty close to breaking even for the state meet. Candi said we charge the \$50 state fee to help pay for the state meet, so we shouldn't expect to break even.
- Are there any equipment purchases we need to make? We need to plan ahead of time and ask districts to bring some equipment. We really don't need to have a set of all the equipment just for the state meet.

AYHC – Youth Presentation

- Announcement will go out that youth can make a presentation at the November 5 board meeting if they are interested in attending as OHSET representatives.
- Candi and Karissa both agreed that it is invaluable for our organization to participate in this conference, and also an important way our organization can contribute to other organizations.
- Denise moved to budget for up to \$1500 for one adult and \$1500 for one or two youth to attend. Scott seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Annual Meeting

- Saturday December 3, in Corvallis at Benton County Fairgrounds.
- Agenda
 - Rule changes
 - Patterns
 - Proper attire / uniform SOG
 - Overmounting – maybe put together a video – let parents and athletes know that OHSET supports coaches making decisions requiring athletes to demonstrate proficiency.
 - Eligibility and co-ops

Co-ops

- Ideally, these need to be completed before the season begins, so get paperwork going ASAP!

Official Timers

- How will we implement this? How do we designate who is an official timer? If they are official timers in WHO, that should qualify a person as an official timer in gaming event, but not necessarily in cattle events.
 - Phil suggested we use carded timers for now. And we bring in as quickly as possible others who are interested in timing, and have them work with carded timers to get training. Then we develop a test or use something that already exists to get others certified.
 - Donna said she agrees that accepting WHO carded timers for gaming is fine. We need to have a list on our website separating timers who are carded for gaming and those who are carded for cattle events. Some timers may be qualified in both, but not all would be. Donna suggested that we keep a written log of times, both back-up hand times and electronic eye, and consider the range of differences to determine if the timer is qualified to be an official timer.
 - Timer needs to also know how to set up and run the electronic eyes.
 - Phil thinks timers should be tested in closed book situation first time and in open book (for review); he also thinks the back-up timer and the one running the eye-box can be the same person.
 - Pam said we should also include rodeo timers who are carded to do cattle events.
- The consensus was that we are not ready to require districts to use certified timers this year. But we should think about it and start working toward being ready to certify timers. One of the things we need to do is have all districts document both sets of times which go to Joann, who can analyze to see that they are consistent. This is a way we could start to build our list of “certified” timers.

Proposed Timed Events Rules Changes

- These need to go back to districts now for feedback. We made a few changes today and Candi will email a corrected version within the week. Send that version out to districts.

Sprague High School

- Team is making progress. New coach has been selected by the school. Everything is going well. They’ve had some challenges in the past because decisions were made by parent board rather than school district officials.

Upcoming Meetings and Other Important Dates

- Sunday October 9 – Rules Committee Meeting #2
- Saturday Nov 5 & 6; Next Board Meeting and Work Session
 - Place TBD
 - Salem
- Saturday Nov 19; Volunteer Training – Lebanon Hospital
- Saturday Dec 3 Annual Meeting – Benton County Fairgrounds
- Saturday Jan 21 Board Meeting
- Saturday, Mar 3 (3 meets) – Board Meeting
 - Move to Sat Mar 10? 1 Meet, Maybe in McMinnville?
 - No meets SAT Mar 17?
- AYHC Symposium: Mar 23-25, 2012
- Saturday, APR 14 Board Meeting; NW District Meet (again)
- Saturday, May 5 Board Meeting
- STATE MEET; 5/17-5/20; Redmond
- Saturday June 16; State Board Meeting
- Saturday Sept 15; State Board Meeting

Other Topics

- We don't have a state meet contract for 2014 yet. We need to consider facilities.
 - Candi said Salem fairgrounds for 4H this year was the worst footings she's ever seen. She asked them to re-work it and it still wasn't good. They are no longer allowing dirt into the large new indoor arena.
 - Denise moved and Don seconded that we seek a contract with Redmond for the 2014 season. Vote - unanimous
- Cattle for state meet – we should look at other providers. Candi will put out an RFP.