

## NRHA COMMITTEE REPORT FORM

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Committee Name: Professionals Committee

Meeting Date: February 5-6, 2015

Chair Name: Shane Brown

Members Present: Shane Brown, Brett Walters, Drake Johnson, Andrea Fappani, Brian Bell, Brandon Brant, Mark Rafacz, Jeff Petska (via conference call), Casey Hinton (ex-officio), Jennifer Hoyt (ex-officio) (day 2)

Members Not Present: Gabe Hutchins, David Hanson, Tanya Jenkins, Josh Visser (ex-officio)

Staff Present: Todd Branson, Todd Barden, Christa Morris, Shianne Megel (day 2), John Foy (day 2)

Agenda Items Discussed:

1. Board Resolution - Reviewed the committee purpose from the Board Resolution #10-14 for the Professionals Committee.
2. Professionals of the Year - General discussion to include affiliates in the nomination process by encouraging members as well as discovering new marketing techniques to encourage nominations from the affiliate level.
3. Professionals Business Plan - General discussion regarding a new professionals business plan to educate and promote professionals that enhanced communication, technology, education and overall member engagement. Professionals Finance subcommittee of Drake Johnson, Jeff Petska, Patrick Flaherty was appointed by the Professionals chairperson to assist in providing guidance on how the funds should be allocated.
4. Futurity Overview and Conditions - Overall discussion about the proposed Futurity conditions, medications testing, patterns, work of the Arena Committee, judging, arena schedules and the rider designation process.

The committee applauded NRHA for the enhancements made to the sale. The committee applauded show staff for the set-up timing. Level 1 Open Consolation was good.

Recommendations regarding Aged Events Committee proposal:

- Recommend continuing and not dissolving the First Time Non Pro Buckle and \$5,000 Trainers award.
- Recommend keeping the consolation in place.
- Recommend supporting the addition of the Prime Time Open division at the NRHA Futurity and Derby with the exception of level 4 riders and removing the handicapping.

Show Management Recommendations:

- Recommendation made to the Arena Committee and Judges Committee to bring the judges chairs closer.
- Recommendation made to the Arena Committee and Judges Committee to split the outdoor covered arena into two smaller arenas and to switch from hour to hour to the 30 minutes to 30 minutes.

- Recommend making the check-in/entry deadline earlier to address horses that do not have riders designated at the start of the competition.

5. Derby Overview and Conditions Recommendation - The schedule was addressed and continues to be edited to accommodate the flow of the show. All proposed changes to the Derby conditions were discussed.

- Recommend leaving the IEA event in the Adequan Arena for 2015.

6. Judges / Professionals Discussion - Discussion over upcoming possible rules changes including the center line rule, allowing the free hand to adjust the reins during the lope in the pattern, different patterns for runoffs, the blood rule, the medications policy, changing walk-in patterns to jog-in patterns and addressing how show management should handle schooling runs during an event.

- Recommend to the Judges committee to not change the center line rule.
- Recommend that Professional Committee members develop and submit two new patterns by the March 15 rule change deadline.

7. Lifetime Memberships

- Recommend Professionals have a lifetime membership.
- Recommend lifetime membership fee \$1,000 with \$25 to NRHA as administrative costs and \$975 to the Professionals fund. A current NRHA membership would still be required.

8. Eligibility Committee Presentation - Discussion over changing requirements for Level 1 for Category 2,6. Eligibility Committee will deliver facts and data for the Professionals to review at the next Professionals meeting.