

NATIONAL REINING HORSE ASSOCIATION
Judges Committee Meeting and Workshop Minutes
NRHA Office, OKC
January 11th and 12th, 2017

January 11th

Members Present: Mike McEntire, Ann Salmon Anderman, Joe Hayes, Ronnie Wayne, Brett Walters, Doug Milholland, Jody Brainard, Todd Sommers, Dean Latimer, Craig Schmersal, Eugenio Latorre, Maik Bartmann, Adi Wagner, Terry Thompson

Members Not Present: Filippo Masi, Tim McQuay, Larry Kasten

Staff Present: Mallory Vestal, Kristen Liesman, Samantha Oldfield

Guests Present: Jeremy Olsen

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Mike McEntire at 1:07 pm.

Where have we been?

Committee discussed on all of the judging systems, what was used in the past, what the advantages were and what the disadvantages were. They continued discussion on the 5 judge system, why it is successful, and what could make it more successful. The committee discussed whether or not publishing the scores directly after a run was useful to judges or harmful to their performance in the arena for the following runs.

The committee went on to discuss the idea of social media with judging, how it can be harmful and what preventative ways there are to keep the events clean and drama free in regards to social media. Ideas were brought to light of having judges sign statements that they will stay off of social media whilst judging an event.

Bub Poplin joins the group at 2:02 pm.

Future of the Judging system

The committee discussed the future of the judging system, where they would like to be in 1, 5 and 10 years from now. Discussion called for if there could be changes made what would they be. The committee also reviewed the idea that communication and education had to be widespread when it came to the standard of judging, that it should not be different dependent on the class that is being judged or the quality of horses. The standard should remain the same. This led to the discussion that the scale in its entirety should be utilized, meaning if there is a +1 ½ it should be paid, not reduced for fear of being too far off the other judges scores. In the same light, a 70 in one arena should be the same 70 in another, and a +1 maneuver in one arena should be a +1 in the other.

Major Events

Discussion regarding a review program for judges after a major event. Judges from major events will be able to further strengthen their judging skills by reviewing their work from major events. Selected runs will be judged by the entire judges committee and these results will be subsequently shared with the major event judges. This is again, one tool to continue to strengthen the skillset of even our best judges in the industry.

The committee also went on to discuss at major events when a horse does fall whose call is it to drag before the next run. The committee discussed having it either written in the conditions or act as a policy that it would be at the judge's and/or show manager's discretion to drag if a horse goes down.

The committee discussed the usage of a side camera to provide additional angles for judges' reviews, similar to what happens in professional sports. The committee likes the additional angle as it would help provide a more clear view for some of the more controversial calls, thus assisting the judges in making their decision. The committee agreed that this camera at the majors was a good idea, however making it clear that judges were not to rely on it.

Major Events-Role of Monitor

The committee then discussed the role of judges monitor at the major events. They wanted to make sure everyone was on the same page as to what the role of the monitor was and the actions they could take and not take. They also went over the educational responsibilities of a monitor and when it was necessary to step up and provide education to judges during the event. The committee discussed the teams at major events, whether it was better to mix them up daily or to keep the teams the same, and the pros and cons of both situations. Then the committee reviewed the tablet system that judges and scribes use at the majors, how there are opportunities with live scoring and what it looks like in the judges room for the monitor.

Judging Runs-Executive Session

The committee went on to judge runs for education material.

Adjourned for the evening at 6:15 pm.

January 12th

Members Present: Mike McEntire, Ann Salmon Anderman, Joe Hayes, Ronnie Wayne, Brett Walters, Doug Milholland, Jody Brainard, Todd Sommers, Dean Latimer, Craig Schmersal, Eugenio Latorre, Maik Bartmann, Adi Wagner, Terry Thompson, Filippo Masi

Members Not Present: Tim McQuay, Larry Kasten

Staff Present: Mallory Vestal, Kristen Liesman, Samantha Oldfield

Guests Present: Jeremy Olsen

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Mike McEntire at 8:40am

JEEP Program

Committee discussed whether or not the JEEP Program was doing what it was designed to do. They went over the specifics of what it is, how it works, if there are repercussions, and its purpose for assisting judges become better. Discussion around ways to make the program better and more effective, and if it was a necessary program to keep alive.

Education-Schools and Seminars

The committee went over the agenda for the school that was to take place the following few days. They went over the run down as well as the content, with the idea that everyone was on the same page to keep schools all over the world consistent and accurate.

Electronic System and Data

Mallory Vestal inquired with the committee regarding what data would be the most useful for them when it came to educating and improving the judging system. She went on to explain that the goal of an electronic system would include: the storing of all maneuver scores, judge chair location in the arena, scores before and after a review, runoff scores retained before and after, etc. All of this data would be utilized in assisting answering questions regarding future changes to the judging system.

Christa Morris-Stone joins the group at 9:20am.

Education- Electronic Platform

Committee discussed what material would be helpful for a judge to get ready in the morning before judging an event. They went over what "warm-up" material would help make sure all judges that are judging that day are on the same accurate platform.

The committee then went on to discuss how tools available through online education could assist in improving and strengthening our judges and the way it could assist in continuing education between re-certification (through a face-to-face school).

The committee discussed the value of having educational material reach all judges, regardless of location, whether for prep work for an upcoming show or purely educational purposes. The committee discussed the timeline on getting this material up and out there for judges and what it would entail.

The committee went on to expand on judges having profiles and what good that could do. These profiles would include contact information as well as the experience they have had in order to help them get hired for more jobs. The idea was brought forward of using a rating system, and the committee discussed multiple types of rating systems, the pros and the cons of using such systems, and what that would entail and possible side effects.

Mike asks for a sub-committee to be put forth to research into rating systems, the different options that other organizations use, and the pros and cons. The sub-committee will consist of Doug Milholland and Brett Walters. They will present their findings at the 2017 Winter Meeting in the Judges Committee Meeting.

Rule Changes/Clarifications for 2018

Christa stepped up and reviewed the rule changes that are going before the Board for 2018. The committee discussed them. They inquire about being able to make changes to the online rule book throughout the year if they find a discrepancy or something that needs to be cleaned up for better clarification. They move on to discuss the discrepancy with what the rule book says versus what is being taught on the Freestyle timing and whether or not the intro counts in the time limit, and what is actually considered the "intro". They discuss the clarification of lead penalties around the end of the arena, as well as pattern placement.

Christa Morris-Stone leaves the group at 11:26am.

How do we help the industry through judging?

Mike asked the committee one final question in relation to judging and being on the committee, how they can help the industry through judging? The committee talks about the future and what needs to be made clearer and relevant to the judging system, and how in the long run the judging program can make the sport of reining the best in the industry.

Lunch is taken from 12-1pm.

Judging Runs- Executive Session

The committee went on to judge runs for education material.

Approval of applicants for seminar in March of 2017-Executive Session

Committee reviews applicants.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40pm