

**NATIONAL REINING HORSE ASSOCIATION  
Oceania Council Minutes  
Video Conference Call  
July 18, 2020**

*Approved August 6, 2020*

Members Present: Paul Sharp, Wayne Hinder, Anthony Ross, Lyndon Hale, Rob Lawson, Kerri Behrens, John Bourke, Julian Kingsford, Jillian Hunter, Jakke Bogie (standing in for Rick Sciberras), Paul Barrett (standing in for Greg Peters), Glenn Windsor (standing in for Bec Lockyer)

Members Not Present: Graham Cooper

Staff Present: Samantha Oldfield

Meeting called to order 9:04am Australian Eastern Standard Time (6:00pm Central Standard Time)

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Previous meeting minutes were presented for approval. A motion was made to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded. A question was brought up on clarification. The minutes were put to vote and passed. The question was asked if these minutes would be made available to the public. Samantha Oldfield informed the Council that they would be posted in the ReinerSuite member portal for members to view. The question was raised if at future Council meetings where NRHA staff are not present if the minutes will be/should be kept in the same format as the previous meeting minutes. The plan is to do so moving forward so they remain in the same format.

**Official Vote of Chair**

Rob Lawson was nominated as chair of the Oceania Council. All were in favor.

**Bylaw Draft Review and Edit**

Samantha Oldfield presented the first draft of the Bylaws for the Council's review. The question was raised as to having a "removal and resignation of member" section. Oldfield read-off this portion of the European Council Bylaws as an example for reference. The question was asked if the Council has the right to ask an affiliate to replace their representative. It was responded that this would be allowed and should be written into the bylaws as such.

It was mentioned that throughout the bylaws the use of "Board of Directors" is confusing. There were several points brought up for clarification and editing. The first point was under Article 1 in point 4 on re-wording "elected by the membership" to "elected by the membership through their respective affiliates". All were in favor of this change. In Article 3 it was agreed that including a section on meetings was important, making sure the language includes that there will be Oceania Council meetings with and without staff. It was suggested to remove the "face-to-face" section on meetings as this may not be possible. It was also mentioned that it should be included on how to change the bylaws should they need updating or changing. It was discussed that many affiliate members feel that important decisions should go to the membership before being voted on by the Council. Discussion was made on the topic and a motion was made to add into the bylaws that any major decision put forward to the Council is taken to the affiliate by their representative prior to being voted on by the Council. This motion was seconded. The discussion was made that this is a great idea, however it could slow the process way down, so preparation for decisions needs to be made in advance so there is plenty of time. In addition, it was discussed that some of the affiliates may not be able to convene quick enough to discuss the topics at hand. It was discussed that this was why the representatives were chosen, to represent their affiliates in decisions.

The question was asked why the other affiliates in Oceania are not on the Council yet. It was explained that as Australia is one of NRHA's oldest affiliates, until it can become stable and unified the other newer affiliates should wait to be brought in.

It was further discussed that a balance is needed, the important decisions should go to the members, but day-to-day business can be decided by the Council members. It was decided that it is important to have a set number of scheduled meetings in the bylaws. A motion was made to have a scheduled four meetings put into the bylaws. It was mentioned there is already a motion on the table and that perhaps it is better to work with that motion first before working on a new one. The original motion on the table was updated to include in the bylaws a set schedule of four meetings, where materials are given three weeks in advance, and major decisions are brought to the affiliates prior to voting. The motion's second agreed. This motion passed.

It was asked what is meant under Article 3 in point 8 on "Board Representation". It was explained that the Oceania Council will be able to put forward a representative that can sit on the NRHA Board of Directors.

The discussion turned to what a quorum would mean. It was discussed that if a quorum was 50% of the members, and that the majority would pass a vote, it could be possible that a quarter of the Council could pass a vote on major decisions. It was discussed that the quorum required to be present at a meeting should be 75% +1, not the current 50%+1 that was written. A motion was made to change the quorum to 75%+1. This motion was seconded. It was discussed that there does not have to be the "plus 1" if it is 75%. The motion was amended to 75%. The seconder agreed with the amendment. This motion passed unanimously.

It was discussed in the portion on attendance to update the verbiage to "without reasonable explanation" when in terms of a Council representative being absent. A motion was made that if an affiliate is not represented at two consecutive meetings without good reason, then the affiliate will be approached by the Council for a new representative. This motion was seconded and passed.

The question was asked about the Council representative proxy seats and if they need to be officially recorded. This topic was discussed, and it was decided that each Council representative will be responsible for finding their own proxy when they need them to sit in.

The conversation turned back over to the removal and resignation portion of the bylaws. Oldfield read off the portion of the European Council bylaws about removal and resignation. A motion was made to include the removal and resignation portion of the European Council bylaws with it updated to include the Oceania Council references. The motion was seconded and passed.

The question was asked what the reference to the show calendar in the bylaws is referring to, of which Oldfield explained.

### **Request for Proposal for Australian Continental Championship**

The document supplied by Oldfield that is used for the European Affiliate Championship bid requests was provided to the Oceania Council for review and editing to use for the Australian Continental Championship bids. It was discussed that the document in its format will work with it updated with Oceania references. The question was asked if there needs to be a sub-committee to look at the bids when they are submitted. Oldfield explained how the process works with other NRHA events that are bid out. The Council set a date of September 15<sup>th</sup> for the bids for the 2021 Australian Continental Championship to be sent in.

### **2021 Eligibility Policy**

The Council reviewed the 2021 Oceania Eligibility Policy that was presented to the Oceania Council by a sub-committee. The conversation was brought to light that the Australian eligibilities are

already being recorded in Australia by Reining Australia, and what would the purpose be to have NRHA start recording them? It was discussed that NRHA already records the earnings, why continue to have it replicated? It was discussed that certain event earnings will not be recorded in the current system of eligibilities due to approval with Reining Australia, which will not work for the Oceania policy.

The question was asked if the Oceania top ten will be recorded on the NRHA website. Oldfield expressed that she would investigate this with the NRHA office, but she did not see why not.

There was much discussion on the eligibility policies and the past. It was asked that the conversation to be brought back to the policy at hand. It was asked if the policy must be done for the August Board meeting. Oldfield expressed that NRHA was aware that it may take time for the policy to be worked through and it can be approved later in the year. The Council reviewed the policy submitted.

Categories of earnings included as written in the worldwide policy.

Rookie Level 1: \$400 US Lifetime

Rookie Level 2: \$800 US Lifetime

Discussion was made if these levels are too high for the green riders, that it may keep them in these classes for a long time.

Intermediate Open: \$5000 US (1/1/19-12/31/19)

Limited Open: \$3000 US (1/1/19-12/31/19)

Intermediate Non Pro: \$3000 (1/1/19-12/31/19)

Rookie Pro: \$5000 US Lifetime

The question was raised if \$5000 for rookie pro was too high, as they have many new trainers coming over from other industries. It was explained that it will allow trainers to find their feet without being kicked out too fast. It was questioned if the limits for intermediate open, limited open, intermediate non pro were too high as they are set at a year's earnings.

Limited Non Pro: \$5000 US Lifetime

Category 2 and 6

Open Level 4: Top 10

Open Level 3: Top 11-30 (1/1/19-12/31/19)

Open Level 2: Top 31-50 (1/1/19-12/31/19)

Open Level 1: Riders who have earned less than \$5,000 US all categories/lifetime

Non Pro Level 4: Top 10

Non Pro Level 3: 11-30

Non Pro Level 2: 31-50

Non Pro Level 1: Riders who have earned less than \$3000 US all categories/lifetime

Riders can factor back one level per year.

The question was raised about the rookie pro and limited non pro having the same limit and whether the rookie pro should be a higher limit or not. The discussion determined that if the limit was too high on the rookie pro then professionals would end up getting stuck in it forever.

Novice Horse Level 1: \$3,000 US Lifetime

Novice Horse Level 2: \$6,000 US Lifetime

Novice Horse Level 3: \$12,000 US Lifetime

The Council discussed the number of horses and riders who would have come out of each level according to the 2019 earnings lists. The discussion led to whether the limits were too low or too high on the novice horse classes. It was discussed that if the limits are too low, aged event horses that need those classes as an additional run in the arena will money out of them too fast. However, if the limits are too high it was discussed that horses will be eligible for too long. The discussion led to the fact that there needs to be a balance, but an increase in entries at events will not be a bad thing.

### **2021 Judge's Recertification**

Samantha Oldfield updated the Council that should 2021 prove to be like 2020, the NRHA judge's committee will have a plan with how to re-certify judges.

### **ReinerSuite**

Samantha Oldfield informed the Council that should they or any of their members need assistance in ReinerSuite to please contact the NRHA office. The Council were also urged to encourage their members to use the system as it is quicker and more efficient.

### **Governing Body of Australia**

The discussion led to whether Reining Australia believed themselves to still be the governing body of Australia in terms of NRHA. Clarification was made that the Council will act as the governing unit of NRHA in Australia, however Reining Australia was welcome to continue to have the programs and opportunities that they previously had for those who are members of their affiliate.

### **Next Meeting**

Rob Lawson organized the next meeting to be held on August 6<sup>th</sup>. It was discussed that notification should be sent out to the membership, informing them of the change in governance. Oldfield mentioned that it would be better to have the bylaws set so the Council was officially organized. The Council mentioned that three weeks' time to wait for notification to be sent was too late. Oldfield informed the Council that she would update the bylaws and send them out for a digital vote. Should they be correct, and everyone agree, then notification can be sent out to the membership.

Meeting adjourned at 12:17pm Australian Eastern Standard Time (9:17pm Central Standard Time).