

NATIONAL REINING HORSE ASSOCIATION
Youth Committee Meeting Minutes
Denton, Texas
February 7, 2020

Approved via email

Members Present: Patrick Flaherty, Josiane Gauthier, Mirjam Stillo, Bob Avila, Billy Williams, Peter DeFreitas, Shane Brown, Ryan Rushing, Bub Poplin, Hiram Resende Silva Filho

Members not present: Bernard Fonk, Casey Hinton

Staff Present: Sara Honegger, Sam Oldfield, Leslie Baker, John Foy

Guests Present: Hunter Mericantante, Jessica How, Daniel Schloemer, John Tague, Mike David, Fred Thomsson, Lucas Mericantante, Chelsea Schneider, Kesley Hruska, Andrea Stillo

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Patrick Flaherty at 1:35 PM CST.

Professionals Code Of Ethics/Violation Letters

There is a new Code of Ethics that Professionals will sign starting in 2020. All Professionals should review this code and follow it. There is now a sub-committee that will review protests of Professionals who may have violated this code and present them to the EC. The EC will then approve a letter to be sent to remind the Professionals of the Code they signed. This letter will become part of their permanent file.

Increased Communication

All Professionals should submit their profile for nrha.com/findapro. Priority in the search engine is given to profiles with photos so be sure to also add those. Professionals are encouraged to join the NRHA Professionals Facebook group to receive communication regarding elections, deadlines, etc.

Futurity Stalls

Currently, the system is broken for the Super Barn stall system. The customers take the brunt of it, and there needs to be an actual process for the assignments of these stall locations. There is a difference between those who were grandfathered in compared to those who have stopped going and rent them out. The system should reward trainers bringing 20+ horses to the Futurity, and change yearly. There were no decisions made on stalls, however the discussion is still open.

Futurity Finals Structure

There was discussion opened about the structure of the Futurity finals moving to one-go and a finals but no decisions were made other than to have a proposal by August, and that the lights in the stall barns should be turned down at night for the horse's benefit. Main points discussed included:

- i) Allow more people to go into the second go
- ii) Remove the label of semi-finals
- iii) Currently we take back 75 in each division, which creates a high of those making the finals in lower levels

- iv) Top 30% get to come back (Last year's competitors to come back for the finals would be 112 competitors in L4, 87 in L3, 70 in L2, 50 in L1. Using the 2019 Futurity Finals scores as an example, the score in order to make the L4 finals would be a 214 compared to a 216; L3: 213 vs. 214; L2: 211 vs. 210; L1: 209 vs. 207 ½.
- v) Schedule notes: 60 Open and 60 NP, Sunday, Monday Tuesday with a Wednesday off to help the horses. The downside is those coming for the Futurity, Wednesday is a fun day to come and has entertainment value.
- vi) A one-go and a final would reduce judges' stress, and decrease cost
- vii) Quality of the finals—are the horses tired? Would one-go help the overall product?
- viii) One-go could help save the perspective of the industry because the horses aren't as tired. Maybe more fans would come, vendors will be happier, shorter horse show. Will more people come for a one-go show so that they can take off one week and be there for the entire show.

Tickets/Badges for the Futurity

Currently there is one badge given to an entry, causing some owners/clients to need to pay additional costs to watch their horse show, after paying so much to get the horse there. There should be two badges given per entry and given to NAAC. If we allow more people to enter, it will help the appearance of the crowd and help the breeders/owners have a better experience at the show. This issue needs to be reevaluated after John looks into finance side since ticket sales are such a large revenue stream.

The Run for a Million: Category Discussion

Tabled until the committee is able to review this year's show approval. If the qualifier events are open and there are no wildcards added, there would be discussion of making it a Category 11

Increase Affiliate Involvement

- a) Continue to remind affiliate Presidents about Professional of the Year nominations throughout the year
- b) Sending Professionals to local levels to promote it
- c) Sara, Shane and Billy will work on guidelines of each Pro of the Year category to publicize
- d) Make Professional of the Year nominations required for turning when they turn in their NAAC roster
- e) Incentivize affiliates with something to make affiliates more motivated to turn in recommendations

New Patterns

Peter made a motion to recommend Patterns 14 and 15 in go-rounds and Pattern 9 in the finals of the 2020 Derby, seconded by Shane. Make sure that 14 or 15 is opposed to NRBC's go-round choice.

- a) Try pattern 16 at smaller shows then try it at larger NRHA shows
 - i) Feedback that the pattern went well at Arizona

Rule Change Proposals

- 33-01-21: Support
- 38-01-21: Support
- 43-02-2: Do not Support
- 53-01-2: Support

61-01-21: Amend to: (5) For 3-year-olds only: Any category 2 or 6 aged class with less than \$5,000 added in total prize money may offer in their conditions a two-handed, any legal bridle option. In the case that the class has more than \$5,000 added, the conditions only may allow riders to compete one-handed in the bridle, or two-handed in the snaffle bit or hackamore.

Survey to Professionals

Shane brought up the idea of having a survey across the country to see how others conduct business such as hauling prices, training averages, etc. Having results could be used as a guideline that would help others just entering the industry. A sub-committee including Josiane, Bob, Peter will review what questions should be on it. This should be completed by a third-party group.

Pro Trainer

There is overwhelming support to keep the magazine, but there should be further discussions regarding production and if AIM is the best choice. Shane made a motion to allow a limited number of ads with the funds from them going to support the Crisis Fund, if possible with printing/publication requirements, Peter seconded.

Nominations

John Foy presented Nomination money and how the program works. 60% goes to the Open Futurity, 30% goes to the Non Pro Futurity, remainder goes to the Derby. It is important to keep in mind that nomination funds impact the purse three years from the time they are paid, not that year (ex. If there was a spike in nominations in 2020, it would affect the purse in 2023). There is only a 10% fee retained by the office, it used to be 5% plus a credit card processing fee, so that has been eliminated and made into 10% to keep it easy.

Meeting adjourned 3:40 p.m.