

**NATIONAL REINING HORSE ASSOCIATION
Oceania Council Minutes
Video Conference Call
May 13, 2020**

Approved July 18, 2020

Members Present: Paul Sharp, Wayne Hinder, Bec Lockyer, Anthony Ross, Lyndon Hale, Rob Lawson, Graham Cooper, Kerri Behrens, John Bourke, Julian Kingsford, Rick Sciberras, Greg Peters

Staff Present: Samantha Oldfield, Gary Carpenter, Christa Morris Stone, Mike Hancock-*NRHA President*

Meeting called to order 6:00pm Australian Eastern Standard Time (3:00am Central Standard Time)

Welcome to Council Representatives

Gary Carpenter and Mike Hancock welcome the Oceania Council representatives to the first Oceania Council meeting. Each representative and staff member introduce themselves and provide a short statement as to their involvement and hope for the future. The common themes of unity and growth reflect in most representatives' opening statements.

Bylaw Creation

The Council discusses the creation of the bylaws for the Oceania Council moving forward. It is discussed that each affiliate should have a seat and a vote but that each affiliate should also have two representatives present at the meetings so that if one cannot attend, there is a second. It is discussed that there should be one main representative who holds the voting seat, and the second is used only when the first cannot make the meetings.

A motion is made that each affiliate has one seat on the Council and a back-up representative if necessary. The question is brought up that should the votes be based off the number of memberships in each affiliate and if developing affiliates should have the same voting power as regular affiliates.

The motion is seconded and passes unanimously.

The conversation continues whether the European model should be taken into account where votes are weighed based off membership numbers. It is discussed that at this point in the creation of the Council it would be best to wait until everything gets sorted out and is settled down, and the affiliates get to know one another before they make a bylaw such as that. The discussion is made that as a Council of affiliates, each affiliate should have the same vote.

A motion is made to allow each affiliate to have one vote. This motion is seconded. The discussion comes up about whether a developing affiliate should have the same voting power. The motion stands as it is and goes to vote. 10 were in favor with two opposed, motion passes.

The discussion turns to whether the Council members should have term limits. A motion is made that there are no term limits and it would be left up to each affiliate to determine who their representative is and for how long determined at their AGM. This motion is seconded. It is discussed that the idea of forcing affiliates to choose their representative at their AGM is not correct. The motion is clarified to mean that each affiliate could choose their representative how they see fit. It is discussed that perhaps there should be a commitment of term as it would not be helpful for the Council to have members rotating on and off, it would not be consistent. The request is asked to edit the motion to include a minimum and maximum term limit. The member putting the

motion forward discusses that they understand this thinking but firmly believes it is up to each affiliate to regulate this and stands by the original motion made. Motion comes to vote, and all were in favor except one.

At this time, the Council is asked if they wish to keep moving through the bylaw creation of which they agree they should. It is asked to include in the bylaws the role of secretary being selected to keep minutes for future meetings.

Chair Selection

The discussion turns to the Chair selection. It is discussed that at this time the Council is not quite ready to select the chair. More time is needed for each Council member to become more comfortable in their role.

Lyndon Hale is nominated for the role as chair. Hale requests to wait until attending the next meeting before he accepts. He believes more discussion is needed before the selection. In addition, it is discussed that whoever is chosen should be steeped in history with the reining world. Hale agrees that they should all get to know each other much better and see what they are all capable of before choosing a chair. This item will be put on the next meeting's agenda. It is asked if a nominating committee would be necessary at this time. It is discussed as to whether a list of names should go to the membership for vote. It is also discussed that possible criteria could be developed that they can review as a Council for what a chair should be. Gary Carpenter offers to provide the Council with job descriptions for non-profit organizations to assist with this. It is the consensus of the Council to wait to select the chair until a future date.

Additional Topics for Discussion

It is asked of the Council if there are any remaining topics that the Council feels are necessary to be discussed at this meeting versus the next. The topic of the Continental Championship is brought up for discussion. It is asked if whether the Council as a whole feels like the event can move forward this year do to the pandemic. The additional topic of eligibility is brought up as a necessary topic for discussion.

It is discussed that with the timing of the call already leaving 33 minutes left at this time, it would not be fair to fully discuss these topics. It is also discussed that as of right now the international boarders are all shut down, and this will make it difficult for hosting this kind of event. The idea is brought up that the Council at this time should discuss the championship for the future. It is discussed that the pandemic will not just go away all at once, and that most likely there will be pockets of it left which might even make state boarders difficult to open. With that in mind and the conversation of being able to sell an event in this time to sponsors, it is discussed that this item will be moved to the next meeting's agenda.

Mike Hancock gives an overview of the NRHA Executive Committee and Board's knowledge that eligibility is different in the NRHA regions of the world. Hancock makes the statement that if an Australian eligibility for categories outside of 2 and 6 is approved by the NRHA Board of Directors there will be a good chance that Australia would be excluded from the world title competition. He recommends that the Council appoint an eligibility committee to review what has previously been presented in the past and then submit a policy for review by the Executive Committee.

Gary Carpenter explains that in 2016 it was decided that what happens inside the pen needs to be worldwide, that reining is reining no matter what country, region, or state you are in. However, what happens outside the arena in terms of nomination programs, eligibility, etc. could be customized to whatever degree is appropriate for the area.

It is asked who will handle the creation of the eligibility lists, and it is confirmed that NRHA will do so. The conversation comes up that all the earnings should be kept in Australian dollars, not the US

dollar that it currently is kept in for worldwide- that keeping the eligibility and earnings in Australian Dollars means a lot to the Australians. A suggestion is made that if this is what the whole Council would like then they need to submit it as part of their eligibility policy to the Executive Committee. Eligibility will be on the agenda for the next meeting; however, it is noted that the policy will need to go to the EC in August for approval.

The question is asked if once other countries are brought into the Oceania Council if this means that the eligibility submitted will be for all of Oceania or just Australia. If it is for more than just Australia perhaps it makes more sense to stay in USD. It is also discussed that 99% of Australians will not show outside of Australia so it would be best to not over-complicate everything. It is then discussed that as horses come into the country and potentially out again and as other countries come in it would make more sense to have a baseline currency.

The 30 years of earnings from Australia prior to joining NRHA is brought up as an inquiry in being included on the NRHA records. It is discussed that there are earnings in many affiliates that are not on the NRHA record as they were not NRHA approved, it is very common worldwide and not just with Australia.

Samantha Oldfield reviews the responsibilities of the Council. They will act as the main communicators to their membership, they are on the Council with the knowledge and voice of their affiliate however with the goal of doing what is best for all the Oceania region.

It is suggested that the same message be communicated to all the affiliates so that the voice is unified in the message given from the Council.

Mike Hancock and Gary Carpenter give closing remarks.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01pm Australian Eastern Standard Time (5:01am Central Standard Time).