

**National Reining Horse Association**  
**Minutes of the Professional Committee**  
**Date: January 18, 2023 at 3:00 P.M. (CST)**

*Approved 1/26/2023*

Members Present: Jordan Larson – Chair, Dan Huss – Vice Chair, Hiram Resende Silva Filho, Matt Palmer, Kaci O'Rourke, Tracer Gilson, Trevor Dare, Justin Mathison

Not Present: Nick Valentine, Ryan Rushing, Kole Price, Casey Hinton, Billy Williams, Jason Vanlandingham

Staff: Sr. Director of Education and Officials – Patti Carter, Education and Officials Coordinator – Lillian Esterl-Byrne, Director of Marketing – Sara Honegger, Sr. Director of International Affairs & Development – Sam Oldfield

Guests: Executive President – Mark Blake, Andrea Stillo, Brooke Wharton, Jimmy Kiser

**I. Call To Order**

Patti Carter – Sr. Director Education and Officials called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. (CST)

**II. Welcome from Mark Blake and Introductions**

**III. Derby 2023 Schedule and Pattern Selection**

- a. Brooke Wharton provided insights from the Aged Events Committee about their thoughts on potential changes to the 2023 Derby Schedule.
  - i. A suggested change was to hold the open prelims first in the schedule and non-pro prelims second.
    1. Motion made and seconded to support the schedule change proposed by the Aged Events Committee for the 2023 Derby – motion passed unanimously.
- b. Jimmy Kiser spoke on the challenges of maintaining the footing at major events.
- c. Motion made and seconded to run the same patterns from the 2022 Derby at the 2023 Derby – motion passed unanimously.
  - i. Further discussion and a formal recommendation from the Professionals Committee to the Aged Events Committee regarding pattern recommendations for the 2023 Futurity will be submitted at the Winter Meeting.

**IV. Update on Pros' Auction**

- a. The pros auction ended 1/18/2023 with a final count of 34 professionals.
  - i. This was the first year that the auction was entirely youth run.

1. All but two professionals sold in the auction.
  2. \$8,900 was raised for the Youth Program.
  3. Professionals sharing the auction on their business social media pages has shown to be most effective in promoting the program.
- ii. Suggestions for future improvement will be revisited at the end of the year prior to the next auction.

## **V. Professionals of the Year Nominations**

- a. Professional of the Year Process:
  - i. Recommendations come directly from affiliates
  - ii. Ideally there should be three nominees for each category
  - iii. An email with the nominees is sent to all professionals
  - iv. Professionals vote on nominees
- b. Criteria for the awards can be found on nrha.com
- c. Nominations for Professionals of the Year
  - i. Horseman of the Year
    1. Fernando Salgado
    2. Nathan Piper
    3. Matt Mills
  - ii. Horsewoman of the Year
    1. Jordan McBurney
    2. Ann Fonck
    3. Marie O'Neal
  - iii. Up-and-Coming
    1. Wade McDonald
    2. Jesse Gentile
    3. Jack Daniels
    4. Jesus (Chuy) Chavez
  - iv. Youth Coach
    1. Jason Charles
    2. Jonas Bujnoch
    3. Shane Kelley
  - v. Non-Pro Coach
    1. Bub Poplin
    2. Yonathan Baruch
    3. Mark Rafacz
    4. Dan Huss

## **VI. Build Winter Meeting Agenda**

- a. 1-3-5 Year Plan for the Professionals Committee
- b. Tutorial on updating your trainer profile for the Find A Pro page
- c. Collaborating with Stewards and Judges Committees
- d. Three horse limit at Futurity and Derby
- e. Safe Sport
- f. 2023 Futurity Patterns
- g. ProTrainer – Jennifer Paulson

## **VII. Upholding the Code of Conduct Discussion**

- a. Discussion was had on how the professionals can help hold each other accountable in difficult situations.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m. (CST)