

Oregon Dressage Society Board Meeting
April 10, 2013
Conference Call

Present: Gaye McCabe, President-Elect; Chris Main, Treasurer; Claire Evans, Secretary; Anna Bigwood; Lisa Koch; Rachel Merusi; Ed Miller; Jessica Rattner

Non-voting: Corinne Stonier, Staff; Dolores Morgan, Chair Sport Horse Committee

1. Meeting Called to Order

Gaye called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm.

1.1 **Introductions:** None needed.

1.2 **Approval of last meeting's minutes:** Ed moved that the minutes of the March conference call as posted on the ODS web site be approved; Jess seconded; the motion passed by voice vote.

1.3 **Changes to the Agenda:** Two additional items were proposed under New Business: Youth Camp - Change of name and sponsorship logos; and South Coast Chapter request to open a bank account.

Claire moved that these two items be added under New Business; Jess seconded, and the motion passed by voice vote.

1.4 **Correspondence-** -Letter from Jane Baer (as submitted:)

Dear O.D.S. Board Members:

I admit to being somewhat befuddled by the recent USEF Ruling regarding the scoring of the posting trot in the lower level tests, i.e. the "correct" diagonal.

I am a firm supporter and believer in the correct position of the rider, and correct use of the aids, but this Rule is not clear, and is quite ambiguous. For instance, my trainers and nationally ranked trainers/riders whose clinics I've audited teach that when performing lateral movements, i.e. leg-yield, the rider should post on the "wrong" diagonal as this facilitates the use of the rider's inside leg aid to encourage the horse to activate and move its hind leg over. So, does this mean that if I post the trot when performing a leg-yield in the First Level Tests I will lose points if I am on the "wrong" diagonal? (Please note I am not asking you to answer this question.)

A few years ago we were encouraged by and embraced the ruling allowing riders to post the trot at lower levels. I believe this new rule will discourage riders, particularly amateurs, from posting the trot as they will be concerned they will lose points if they are on the wrong diagonal. Yes, we all should be able to post on the correct diagonal but in the heat and nervous moments of competition is it truly a good idea to penalize the rider for the wrong diagonal? In equitation classes the rider should be posting correctly.

It would appear that there wasn't much thought or in depth discussion regarding the repercussions of this rule, and USEF should consider amending and/or re-wording this rule.

I hope that with member support, GMO's can lobby USDF to challenge this rule.

Sincerely,
Jane Baer

Ed interjected that this was an item of discussion at the USDF national convention; these specific concerns were brought to the attention of the USEF Dressage Committee which duly ignored them. Ed suggested that someone on the Board respond to Jane, explain that this matter was discussed at convention and communicated to the USEF Dressage Committee during a discussion of the rule changes, to no avail.

Action Item: Rose was tasked to respond to Jane Baer and communicate that her concerns were the topic of an extensive discussion at the USDF National Convention, were expressed on the floor during a discussion of rule changes according to appropriate procedure at the national convention, without any impact.

OLD BUSINESS

2. Status Report on Option for Auto-Pay for ODS Membership Renewal - Report from Claire Evans:

ODS Membership Renewal Survey: Launched on April 1, the survey seeks to gauge interest among ODS members in multi-year membership packages as well as automatic payment options (automatic membership renewal payments by debiting a checking account or charging a credit card). By the end of last week, 159 members had participated in the survey. More than two-thirds (68%) favor a multi-year membership option with ODS. Of those, nearly equal numbers advocate two years as opposed to three years' membership (45% vs. 42%), with only 12% liking a five-year membership option. By far the most support to any question was for a single transaction to join ODS, USDF and USEF simultaneously: 78% like this opportunity. However, opposition was quite pronounced to auto-pay mechanisms, whether by debiting a checking account (74% opposed) or billing a credit card (60% opposed).

Thirty-nine (39) individuals took the time to write in comments. The highest number of comments (9) underscored strong support for the single transaction to enroll in ODS, USDF and USEF (although two people expressed concern that this might be an additional and excessive burden to ODS staff). Five commented that they would participate in a multi-year membership with ODS only if a discount were offered. Four commented that they like the multi-year ODS membership option, and two wished a lifetime membership could be available. Credit card or banking security is a serious concern for four people, and another four said that while they favor an auto-pay option, they would like advance email notification before the transaction is processed.

Discussion: Claire summarized the report she submitted before the meeting (above). Gaye wondered whether the security concerns about the auto-pay option were really valid, since the ODS office wouldn't retain the member's financial information. Corinne explained that this strikes more at the sense of financial security. Perhaps in the future, this will come of age, Gaye concluded, but it is not the time now. Claire urged that, despite the negative results concerning automatic renewal, that the survey did warrant ODS to continue pursuing the option for a single transaction to join ODS, USDF and USEF simultaneously, and we should proceed to negotiate with those organizations to make that happen.

Motion: Ed moved to accept the recommendation resulting from this member survey to not pursue auto-pay for renewal at the present time; Claire seconded; the motion passed by voice vote.

3. ODS Sending a Representative to USEF Annual Convention - Gaye McCabe

Corinne sent an email to the GMO Prez list, asking whether other GMOs send delegates to the USEF annual convention strictly for information-tracking purposes. Several responded that they do send reps and find the feedback a valuable and direct source of relevant information. Some smaller GMOs give partial travel support, others send representatives as a matter of course. Barb Funk sent Corinne an email listing the pros and cons of sending reps to the USEF annual meeting, with the greatest perceived impact centering along the lines of the ability to attend open vs. closed meetings. Ed asked if any of the responding GMOs addressed the value they calculate that this attendance offers. It's all about reporting back, said Corinne, which several GMOs said they found worthwhile. Jess believes it doesn't make that much sense for ODS to spend money for this purpose, given competing needs. Ed noted that this year ODS will incur losses on the Awards Program, so this is not a time to increase elective expenditures.

Motion: Jess moved to decline the proposal of sending delegates to the USEF annual convention at this time. Ed seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

4. **Policies and Procedures Changes to change Nominating Committee from Ad Hoc to Standing -**
Ed Miller

Amendments to address changing Nominating Committee from Ad Hoc to Standing committee
Chapter I. Section VII.B.

Add new paragraph 7. **Nominating Committee** and re-designate existing paragraph 7 as paragraph C as follows:

B. Standing Committees

7. **Nominating Committee has the responsibility for identifying candidates for election as Directors at Large and Regional Representatives. The committee also has the responsibility to secure agreement from nominees to be included on the election ballot.**

C. **Ad Hoc Committees**

Grievance Committee
Scholarship Committee
Publications Committee
Others as needed on a temporary basis

Chapter II. Section X. Committee Procedures, Paragraph D. Specific Committee Procedures

Add a new paragraph 9. **Nominating Committee Procedures** as follows:

9. **Nominating Committee**

1. **The Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the ODS President. Committee members shall be dismissed following completion of its duties for the fall elections.**
2. **The Nominating Committee shall submit a list of candidates for Directors at Large and Regional Representatives to the Board of Directors at a date specified by the Board with sufficient time to implement the Election process.**
3. **The Committee will secure agreement from nominees to be included on the election ballot.**

Chapter II. Section VI. B Election of Directors at Large and Regional Representatives

Revise to eliminate redundancies with the addition of new Paragraph 9 above.

A. Election of Directors at Large and Regional Representatives

1. Ballots for Director at Large

~~The Nominating Committee shall submit a list of candidates for Directors at Large to the Board of Directors by a specified date. All candidates must agree to be put on the ballot.~~
The Office Manager shall prepare a ballot with the names of the candidates and their biographies and distribute it to all ODS members in good standing no less than twenty-five (25) days prior to the last date on which the ballots must be cast.

2. Election of Regional Representatives

~~The Nominating Committee shall submit a list of candidates for Regional Representatives. All nominees must agree to be included on the ballot.~~ The Office Manager shall prepare ballots and distribute ballots to ODS members in good standing within the region of each nominee along with the ballot for Director at Large.

Discussion: Ed outlined the proposed changes necessary to the Policies and Procedures Manual to change the Nominating Committee from ad hoc to standing, as he attempted to capture the language in the Board's previous discussions. Gaye noted that the timing of appointment is important, since the membership of the Nominating Committee would be designated at the spring meeting (coming up next month).

Motion: Chris moved to accept the recommended changes to the Policies and Procedures Manual to make the Nominating Committee a Standing Committee; Rachel seconded, and the motion passed by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

5. ODS Youth Camp - Change of name and sponsorship logos

a) **Name of Camp:** Jess brought to the Board's attention that on the ODS web site, the ODS Youth Camp has a different title from the one used for this program in the past, which was "ODS/Region 6 Benefit Overnight Youth Dressage Camp hosted by ODS held at DevonWood Equestrian Centre."

Jess said that at this point in time, she understands that Regional Director Donna Longacre has decided to organize another camp in Washington and possibly a third camp in Idaho. Regarding the name, this has been a contentious issue, but as the chief organizer, Jess has tried to emphasize that it is a youth camp for the entire Region 6 area, and she firmly believes that the inclusion of the broader scope in the title is important.

Therefore, she proposed that the official title be: "USDF Region 6 Youth Dressage Overnight Camp hosted by ODS and held at DevonWood Equestrian Centre."

Corinne interjected that this concern simply respects the boundaries of other GMOs in the region. ODS' insurance company said last year that if this is a Region 6 camp, then Region 6 needs to apply for the insurance, because the invitation to participate is extended to riders throughout Region 6. Financial responsibility for organizing the camp would lodge with ODS, not Region 6 realistically, Ed observed. Gaye noted that Regions need to sponsor things on their own, and hopefully this will be clarified in the future, as Peter Rothschild and Claire are looking into the responsibilities and limits of operations of the regions. Ed recalled that in the original discussion, a project had to be an ODS project to obtain insurance, and asked Corinne for clarification. Originally this camp was presented as a USDF function, she said. Jess sought to clarify that participation would pertain to youth within Region 6, but not that the Region 6 organization would take responsibility for it. This seems to be a wording question, to make it clear to insurance company. "Organized by ODS" would take care of this, said Claire.

Motion: Claire moved to rename the camp "USDF Region 6 Youth Dressage Overnight Camp organized by ODS and held at DevonWood Equestrian Centre" and to instruct Corinne to pursue with Jess the appropriate organizational steps. Ed seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

b) **Sponsorship Logos:** Corinne noted that according to the Policies and Procedures Manual, ODS places restrictions on hot links on the ODS web site to business members (i.e., logos and business web sites). This restriction would preclude the sponsors of the Overnight Youth Camp from being recognized on the ODS web site, even with their logos placed on Youth Camp page only. For example, Olson's Tack Shop is a sponsor of the Youth Camp, and it would be generous to recognize them with that identification.

Chris asked if Olson's had requested such recognition, and Corinne replied no. Both Ed and Chris opined that, if a sponsor didn't request this, ODS shouldn't change its policy. Jess noted the importance of this recognition and suggested contacting the manager of the Region 6 web site for recognition there. Ed and Chris felt strongly about digressing from policy. Corinne suggested a more comprehensive policy review, because this matter arises regularly. Gaye agreed to review policy and ramifications; Ed and Chris noted that the present policy was set for reasons, to which Gaye countered that policies are made to be reviewed and modified.

Action Step: Claire volunteered to head a task force to review ODS Policies and Procedures governing web site links, inclusive throughout the organization, particularly concerning recognition of sponsors.

6. Request from South Coast Chapter to Open Bank Account

The South Coast Chapter has raised sufficient funds to warrant opening a bank account. The Board must authorize the Office Manager to provide the necessary information to the bank.

Motion: Claire moved that the Board authorize the Office Manager to provide the necessary information to the specified bank, so that the South Coast Chapter may open a bank account, in accordance with ODS policies. Chris seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

7. Western Dressage at ODS League Shows -- Gaye McCabe

Gaye noted that Joyce Stride has been exploring this issue for 4-H, is very knowledgeable and asked what ODS was using as guidelines. Differences exist between tests used and promoted by the Western Dressage Association of America (WDAA) and North American Western Dressage (NAWD). Jess thought the use of the word “patterns” would be preferable.

Gaye related her discussions with Joyce and Linda Coates-Markle about Western Dressage tests. Linda Coates-Markle provided an extensive report listing reasons why she felt NAWD tests were better from a judge’s point of view. She noted that WDAA tests are longer, more complicated and allow for the use of curb bits from the lowest levels; she wanted to bring this up for the Board to consider before making changes for the next calendar year, with resulting impact on ODS League Shows. USEF has aligned itself with Morgan Breed shows, which use WDAA rules, and ODS follows USEF, said Ed. ODS Board would need to decide which organization’s rules and tests would be followed for ODS League shows. Dolores noted that Western riders ride in snaffle bits, too. Gaye also mentioned that Linda told her both the WDAA and NAWD are USEF affiliate members.

Motion: Claire moved that the issue of which Western Dressage tests are to be used at ODS League Shows in 2014 be remanded to the ODS Show Committee for a recommendation by the August 3rd Board Meeting. Chris seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

8. **Adjournment:** Jess moved that the meeting be adjourned, with Chris seconding. The meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Next Meeting: Saturday, May 11, 2013 - Wilsonville Chamber of Commerce 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Action Items

1. **ODS Member Correspondence:** Rose was tasked to respond to Jane Baer and communicate that her concerns were the topic of an extensive discussion at the USDF National Convention, were communicated to the USEF Dressage Committee during a discussion of the rule changes as is the appropriate procedure, without any impact.
2. **Sponsorship Logos on ODS Web Site:** Claire volunteered to head a task force to review ODS Policies and Procedures governing web site links, inclusive throughout the organization, particularly concerning recognition of sponsors.