

HIO Teleconference Summary

July 11, 2006

Present via Teleconference: Don Bell (NWA), Donna Benefield (HPC), Keith Dane (FOSH), and Niels Holch (HOA & WI)

Not Present: Craig Evans (TWHBEA), Lonnie Messick (NHSC), Mack Motes (SSHBEA), Bob Nagle (MFTHBA), and Kenny Smith (KWA)

USDA: Not Present; Facilitator: Robin Lohnes

Review of June 13-14, 2006 Meeting Summary:

The June 13-14, 2006, meeting summary was reviewed and tabled until the August 8, 2006, teleconference so that all participants have an opportunity to review the summary.

USDA Monthly Report (Dr. Behre)

- No Report

OP Discussion The redline version of the OP was reviewed to confirm changes adopted at the June 13-14, 2006, HIO meeting. In addition, the following suggested changes made at the June meeting were discussed in detail:

- **Prohibition Period:** If language concerning a specified prohibition period for DQPs and HIO officials in violation of the HPA is adopted than it would be inserted under VI. HIO Responsibilities, B. Standards of Conduct. As a counter to the two year prohibition period as suggested at the June meeting, Niels Holch suggested that for a major offense (anything more than 60 days) there would be one additional year beyond suspension, and for a penalty 60 days or less the penalty would be whatever the current rule is. Both Donna Benefield and Don Bell (representing HPC and NWA, respectively) commented that competitors should not be policing themselves and serving on HIO Boards or as DQPs. Don Bell stated that NWA prohibits Walking Horse trainers from being a DQP for Walking Horse shows. Don also added that anyone violating the HPA should be prohibited from serving as a DQP or HIO official for a minimum of one year. In response to Niels' suggestion, Donna noted that the prohibition period should be based on the violation not the length of the suspension to which Niels responded that he could not obtain agreement among his clients for that concept. Keith Dane, on behalf of FOSH, said that he appreciated Niels' effort to effect change and hopes that more progress can be made. Niels responded that he thinks the severity of the offense needs to be taken into consideration. This item will be added to the August teleconference agenda for further discussion.
- **Uniform/Standardized Forms:** Niels stated that the Commission strongly supports uniform and standardized forms.
- **Publication of Suspension Lists:** Niels said that NHSC still has concerns about releasing its combined suspension list because it includes all of the HIOs and it did not want to assume liability for any other HIO suspension list other than its own. Niels continued that to separate out NHSC suspensions would be labor intensive. It was pointed out the combined list NHSC compiles is already divided by each HIO and the NHSC could easily cut and paste its own list with little effort.
- **Prohibition of hand carts and chains in the inspection area:** Niels said that Lonnie Messick will be trying a number of different tactics at the Celebration this year to address the concern that horses are being adjusted post inspection prior to entering a class. Niels will ask Lonnie and ask that he send his plan to Robin Lohnes for distribution to each of the HIOs. Niels added that the Commission is willing to have specific language in the OP saying that DQP responsibilities would include monitoring activities in the warm up/holding area. This item will be added to the September HIO meeting agenda for further discussion.
- **Plastic Wrap:** Niels reported that the prohibition of plastic wrap on show grounds posed a real problem for his clients in that it was feasible that such plastic wrap may be necessary for a 10 day/two week show. Further discussion needed.

- **Figure-Eights:** At the June meeting, Niels suggested that this might be included as an optional directive; however, it was pointed out that it must not be optional or else an exhibitor could contest that they had been singled out. HPC made a proposal regarding figure eights; and Todd announced that it will be added to the 2007 training manual.
- **Scar Rule-Definition of “loss of function”:** It was suggested that the term “loss of function” (in Section IX.A.12) be further clarified to include “...on a cellular level.” Further discussion was tabled to the August teleconference agenda.
- **Prohibition of all scars on horses two years old and younger as of January 1, 2007:** This concept was posed at the June HIO meeting. According to Niels, it received no support at all from the Commission (including WHOA and WHTA). However, Niels added that he still needed to obtain feedback from TWHBEA, HOA and WI. It was asked that this discussion be continued at the August teleconference and the September HIO meeting.
- **TWHBEA Futurity:** It was noted that TWHBEA had taken a positive step in its letter to the Celebration regarding its Futurity requesting specific changes be made to ensure stricter HPA enforcement.
- **Parents/Guardians accompanying minors in the inspection area:** Niels pointed out that currently the OP permits only exhibitors and trainers to be in the inspection area. NHSC would like to propose an amendment for discussion that would either require a parent or guardian to accompany a minor or allow a parent/guardian to accompany a minor in the inspection area. If adopted this could be added to Section VII.A.2. This amendment was tabled for further discussion

Outstanding Issues

The following items were identified as outstanding issues to be reviewed:

- Owner liability
- Penalties: To include NWHHA’s proposal to increase all 8 month penalties to one year and to treat unilateral violations as the same as bilateral violations; FOSH’s proposal to distinguish between pre and post-show violations, increase the penalty for foreign substances, and to evaluate the structure for all penalties.
- Suspensions
- Address different appeals’ processes among HIOs

Determine August 8, 2006 HIO Teleconference Agenda

- Tentative Agenda:
Review of June 13-14, 2006, HIO meeting summary and July 11, 2006 HIO teleconference summary
USDA Monthly Report
Continued discussion re probation periods, plastic wrap, “loss of function” terminology, prohibition of scars two years old and younger
Owner Liability
Enhanced Penalties
Suspensions
Appeals Process

September HIO Meeting

- Due to a number of scheduling conflicts the dates for the September HIO meeting in Nashville will be September 26 and 27. Robin will send out an email to confirm everyone’s availability.

Miscellaneous

- Keith Dane and Donna Benefield referenced the May 9, 2006, HIO teleconference summary in which Craig Evan’s attributed a comment regarding how meetings had been held in the past to both Keith and Donna. Neither Keith nor Donna recall having made the remarks, and Keith reiterated FOSH’s (as well as HPC and NWHHA) position was to open the meetings to observers rather than participants.