

USBCHA – Director’s Meeting

Date: Tuesday February 11 2020

5:00 p.m. Pacific Time; 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Attending: Peter Hall, Marianna Schreeder, Linda DeJong, Joe Haynes, Mary Minor, Terri Warner, Jan Stebbins, Angie Coker-Sells, Wyatt Fleming, Faansie Basson, Kay Stephens, Mike Neary, Linda Tesdahl, Lori Cunningham, Mich Ferraro, Sue Schoen, David Saunders, Frank Smith, John Palmer, Amanda Milliken, Milton Scott, Louanne Twa, Dianne Deal, Laura Vishoot, Cy Peterson

Minutes

1. **2020 Cattledog Finals Proposal:** Posted and discussed previously. Concerns raised by the Board at the last meeting have been addressed by Cattledog Committee and
 - a. Chair for Cattledog: Rich Hall, Co-chair: Mike Davis
 - b. It is moved that proposal be approved as posted,
 - c. Moved: Frank Smith
 - d. Second Mike Neary
 - e. Passed with no objections
2. **Final Report**
 - a. End-of-year P&L posted. Questions entertained
 - b. Account moved following the manager to maintain favorable fee structure. Continue to be conservatively invested.
 - c. Judging Pay Rate Proposal
 - i. ABCA was informed of proposal. Marianna has reviewed fiscal impacts and has determined that HA’s positive net income can support the increase. Finance Committee consensus supports increase. Board discussed the issue
 - ii. Moved by Mike Neary to increase payments \$600 for sheep only.
 - iii. Second: Terri Warner
 - iv. Passed with no objections
3. **Committee Updates**
 - a. **Judging Guidelines Committee**
 - i. Draft of amended rules were approved by the Board at the December meeting. The revised rules, as presented, contain editorial revisions only and have been discussed with Angie so proposal is acceptance of rules as written.
 - ii. Code of Ethics also previously approved with editorial revisions only.
 - iii. Specific rules in question
 - i. *A person may not judge the National Finals more than three times in five years, or in consecutive years.*
 - ii. *On acceptance of an invitation to judge the National Finals, a person must agree to and sign a Code of Ethics statement.*
 - iii. *At a National Finals trial, a person may not judge a dog that he or she:*
 1. *Owned or co-owned after February 1 of the Finals year.*

2. *Personally ran and gained points after February 1 of the Finals year.*

iv. *At a National Finals Trial, a person may not judge his/her spouse or other immediate family member.*

v. *A person who has been selected to judge the National Finals may not judge another USBCHA-sanctioned trial during the two (2) months prior to the National Finals trial.*

iv. *Edits were accepted with no objections*

v. Application to cattledog finals: Discussion of difference between the way sheepdog and cattledog trials are judged and applicability of specific rules. General consensus was cattledog trials based on time and points with less subjectivity.

1. Determined that Peter will bring it up with the cattledog committee to identify whether it is necessary to apply new rules to cattledog finals

b. Handler Guidelines for National Finals Committee

i. Updated by Terri Warner: Competitors are held to same standards as judges, Looking at guidelines rather than hard rules. Guidelines are still in process with a goal of being completed prior to entries.

4. Finals Webcast Proposal

a. DVD distribution: The vision is to have HA control its media distribution through its own channel including finals video and judging video as well as other archival materials. Discussion is in progress involving 5:00 Films & Media, webmaster. Web committee needs to come up with a proposal.

b. Funding

i. USBCHA: previous years \$4500 given. Peter will get specific costs for preliminary and additional cross drive camera.

1. Amanda proposed USBCHA increase amount as service to members to \$10,000
2. Second: Sue Schoen
3. Angie, Peter will discuss with ABCA covering the preliminary round
4. Passed with no objection including third camera

5. ABCA Grant Request

a. In process. Discuss with ABCA if they will cover on a 50/50 or a total of \$4000 for finals

b. Request ABCA increase contribution to webcast

6. World Trial Update

a. List has been sent to ISDS and individual handlers are responsible for their entries and payment.

b. Proposal sponsor dinner for attending USBCHA members

c. World Trial Fundraising Committee

- i. Maggi has been in discussion with Purina and Nutri-Source. Nutri-source has offered to purchase jackets for the World Team.
- ii. Mike Neary as World Trial Handler Committee is coordinating a Facebook auction to fund raise

7. Other Business

- a. Webmaster: Pearse Ward is our new webmaster and is working on improvements on the website. Is putting together a Web Committee
- b. Judging Video: Dave Imas will be producing and mailing thumb drive version of video at cost- \$12 and there is an on-line version available at no cost. Links have been added to website.
- c. Paw Print Genetics: has renewed their support and has a new discount promotion
- d. Judge Nominations: Nominations are complete and voting has started. Results will be posted first half of March.
- e. Sheepdog Trial Committee
 - i. Linda Tesdahl, Lori Cunningham, Tom Wilson will be USBCHA reps

8. New Business

- a. Issue raised about running a dog owned by suspended handler. There is verbiage in the rules that addressed the issue but seems to be open to different interpretations. Immediate determination for an up-coming trial is that the rule is not clear enough to bar the dog but that the rules committee needs to clarify the rule.

9. Adjourned 9:30 Eastern time

Emergency BOD Meeting #2

4/3/20

8 PM EST

Present:

Officers: Peter Hall, Linda DeJong

Board Members: Angie Coker-Sells, Cy Peterson, David Saunders, Dianne Deal, Faansie Basson, Frank Smith, Jan Stebbins, Jennifer Boznos, Joe Haynes, John Palmer, Kay Stephens, Laura Vishoot, Linda Tesdahl, Lori Cunningham, Louanne Twa, Mary Minor, Mich Ferraro, Mike Neary, Sue Schoen, Wyatt Fleming

Guests: Tracee Treadwell, Dr. Dianna Sylvestre

Opening Remarks:

Peter: This meeting is called under the authority of the USBCHA Bylaw Article 7.5 where advance notice requirements are waived.

The purpose of this meeting is to review the recommendations of the Covid-19 Committee and to vote on those recommendations

Tracee Treadwell and Dianna Sylvestre are present to help explain and clarify the recommendations. Peter has also had discussions with Sandy Payne (Sheepdog National Finals) Rich Hall (Cattledog National Finals)

Covid-19 Committee Recommendations and Discussion

Kay Stephens speaking for committee:

A written report was submitted to the BOD in advance of the meeting

Summary: Latest evidence is that the virus can live on surfaces for hours or days and there is some evidence of aerosol transfer. This means the virus can be easily spread at trials even if social distancing is maintained.

At this point the only way to keep death rate down to avoid overwhelming the health care system is by maintaining sheltering in place. Projections with enforcement of social distancing show peaks will occur from middle of April to middle of May with cases continuing to occur into June or July.

Committee recommends extending out moratorium through June 10 to give hosts and handlers more lead time for planning.

Tracee Treadwell: Addressing epidemiology aspects. Modeling is based on projections from IHME based at the University of Washington. Anyone wanting to review the information can find it on web at: <https://covid19.healthdata.org/projections>. This information is updated as new data is compiled and thus changes continually but has been shown to be accurate so far. Looks at peak usage- amount of beds, ICU and ventilator needs with date of peak use projected. Based on everyone complying with social distancing but so far this is not happening in all areas.

Question:

Testing- There are still many more cases than have been tested and a lot of people who feel well but are carriers.

Dianna Sylvestre: Addressing resistance as a doctor

This is a novel virus with no one having resistance. As a doctor, she stated that in time everyone is going to be exposed. The question is when do we want the exposure to happen- now or when there is a good treatment or vaccine. We need to slow down transmission because the longer we wait the better outcome there is going to be and the fewer people who will die.

When can we trial- we don't know. We need to see the infection trend go down which it is beginning to happen in some places. We don't know what will happen when restrictions are

lifted. Hopes June 10 will be enough but is not optimistic. She is comfortable with June 10 at this point as long as issue is revisited. Thinks monthly review is good.

Discussion:

Discussion included whether monthly review is sufficient. Also discussed the pros and cons of making decision to completely cancel the season and finals or whether to keep possibility open for at least another month. Peter had verified with Sandy that it would be possible for the sheep dog final to be pushed later in the year to as late as first weekend of December. Has not heard back from Cattedog committee whether there were later dates.

A suggestion was made to not push decision-making too far into the future, for example, make the current recommendation for a moratorium last until June 1 and then regularize the schedule where the decision is made one month before the next set of restrictions apply.

Response from Committee was that 10 June was chosen because all the epidemiological curves were starting to head down toward the middle of the month. If June 1 was the deadline, would probably have to extend it at least to June 10 when everything is reassessed in a couple of weeks. Also, because there are many trials scheduled for the Memorial Day weekend, the Committee thought it best to remove any uncertainty about the trials taking place.

Motion: To accept the committee recommendation to extend withdrawing sanctioning through June 10. Covid-19 committee will continue to review and update recommendations to Peter on a 2-week schedule. He will refer pertinent updates to the BOD which will meet monthly unless there is a radical change.

Motion by: Lori Cunningham

Second by: Cy Peterson

Motion Passed: 19 yes, 1 no

Website will continue based on current practice of marking current trials as non-sanctioned unless hosts notifies secretary of cancelation or rescheduling.

Finals Qualification Committee (Cy Peterson)

Have discussed a variety of scenarios but due to uncertainty of when or if there will be trials or finals are unable to give specific recommendations at this time.

Adjourn: 9:14 EST

USBCHA- Directors' Meeting
May 17,2020
5 PM PST, 8 PM EST

Attending: Officers:

Peter Hall, Linda DeJong, Marianna Schreeder

Directors:

Amanda Milliken, Angie Coker-Sells, Cy Peterson, David Saunders, Dianne Deal, Faansie Basson, Frank Smith, Jan Stebbins, Jennifer Boznos, Joe Haynes, John Palmer, Kay Stephens, Laura Vishoot, Linda Tesdahl, Lori Cunningham, Louanne Twa, Marianna Schreeder, Mary Minor, Mich Ferraro, Mike Neary, Milton Scott, Sue Schoen, Terri Warner, Wyatt Fleming

Guests:

Dianne Sylvestre, Traci Treadwell, Carol Clawson

President's Opening Statement

There has been minimal impact on investment accounts since most of investments are in treasury and other securities.

World Trial Update

To be held between- Sept 16-19, 2021

Note that there has been a lot of good discussion occurring on BC Boards for the directors

2020 Sheepdog and Cattledog Finals

Sheepdog Finals update from Sandy Payne-

Sandy has submitted a report of the logistics around the 2020 trials and has concluded that the 2020 sheepdog finals is not viable due to lose of sponsorships, likely inability to hold finals at Belle Grove facility or to have spectators. In addition, there are multiple issues around acquisition of livestock.

Discussion:

Mary Minor, speaking for 2021 Western Finals, said they support Sandy having first choice of 2021 Finals.

Also discussed was the role of the local host and the USBCHA in determining the viability of holding the finals. General consensus was that it needs to be a joint decision

Motion: Amanda Milliken:

Cancel sheepdog finals 2020

Seconded: Mary Minor

Passed unanimously by roll call

Motion: Frank Smith;

Have 2021 Sheepdog finals at Belle Grove. Date to be determined

Seconded: Cy Peterson

Passed unanimously

Motion: Cy Peterson:

Western Finals to be held in 2022 pending confirmation from finals committee about location

Seconded: Joe Haynes

Passed unanimously

Cattledog Finals

Discussion: Point was made that there is concern that cancellation will affect access to venues in future years and that cattledog finals is looking at fewer numbers at competitions. This suggests there could be a different policy around the cattledog finals. Question was raised about whether the closed border between US and Canada would affect the finals and need to consider ramifications of treating cattledog and sheepdog finals differently. The Cattledog finals committee is, at this point, not requesting cancellation. It was felt that it is premature to cancel finals when hosts still want to put it on.

Also, it was determined that further consideration needs to include how to handle nursery dogs and 2020 trial year sanctioning fees from local trials

Covid-19 Committee Recommendations and Discussion

Committee Recommendation: Continue suspension to Aug 1 to be re-evaluated mid-July. They are looking at regulations for trials when sanctions do open. Problem-number of cases still rising.

Tracee Treadwell: US leads world in cases and deaths, new as of today increase of 31,000. Starting to go up in younger groups but older still leading in death. Texas is used as example. Open in April 30- in 2 week incubation large increase in numbers. Testing increase is a small caveat. There has been an increase in super-spreader events- 1 individual resulting in a large number of cases.

New syndromes are showing up, ex. young children, increase blood clots, multi organ failure.

Dianne Sylvestre: Medical -we are getting better treatment and deaths are going down. Need to be making decisions to keep most vulnerable safe. Once we have better grasp of metrics and determine if risk is low enough to start trials.

Discussion

How dangerous is it to have outdoor event? Tracee does not see it as safe unless we have better control, treatment or vaccine. Not necessarily all but some need to be in place. Aug date to open- should have good understanding of risks from opening up as of next meeting. Also, if the international border is closed can we have sanctioned trials? Needs to be addressed for future.

August 1- is that a likely be possible to have trials? This is a reasonable but need to keep reviewing if the risk is low enough to go forward.

Motion: Amanda Milliken

No sanctions until August 1 with reevaluation middle of July

Second: Linda Tesdahl

Passed with one no

Covid-19 Liability Concerns (Carol Clawson)

Carol is not acting as a lawyer for HA but is working on a liability statement. The first lawsuit has occurred in Utah. For protection we need a signed statement of liability to

avoid lawsuits. Need to figure out the logistics. Statement will remain in a draft form until the next meeting due to decision to not sanction trials until August.

Waiver- signature would be required in order to participate. Not attached to any insurance.

Motion: Joe Haynes;

Defer decision until next meeting for cattledog finals with no sanctioned trials until August

Second: Mary Minor

Passed unanimously

Finals Qualification Committee Update (Cy Peterson)

2020 Qualifying Finals no longer applies. Need to review any carryover points from 2020 to 2021 and discuss nursery options in next meeting.

Kunkel disciplinary actions

To be continued

New Business:

Next meeting to occur in one month

Will review how to handle points and nursery qualification.

Adjourn

Motion: Cy Peterson

6:53 PM adjourn

USBCHA – Director’s Meeting

Date: June, 2020

Time: 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time; 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Call-in #: 302-202-1104

Conference code: 772683

AGENDA

- 1. Roll Call**
- 2. President’s Opening Statement**
 - a. Purina
- 3. 2020 Cattledog Finals**
 - a. USBCHA National Cattle Dog Committee met May 27, 2020.
 - b. Committee moved to recommend cancelation to the Board of the 2020 Cattledog Finals
 - i. Passed unanimously
 - ii. Meeting minutes posted on BC Boards June BOD Meeting Discussion Topics
 - c. Discussion
 - d. Board motion and second required
 - e. Roll call vote
- 4. 2021 Finals**
 - a. Sheepdog finals at Belle Grove, October 5 through 10
 - b. Cattledog finals at Sandeen Farm, date TBD
- 5. Covid-19 Committee Recommendations and Discussion (Kay Stephens)**
 - a. Covid-19 Committee recommendation
 - i. Recommendation posted on BC Boards June BOD Meeting Discussion Topics
 - b. Discussion
 - c. Motion
 - d. Board approval required
 - i. Roll call vote
- 6. Covid-19 Liability Concerns (Carol Clawson, Lori Cunningham)**
 - a. Final USBCHA waiver and release of liability, assumption of risk and indemnity agreement posted on BC Boards June BOD Meeting Discussion Topics
 - b. How to implement?
 - i. Rule amendment or required as part of entry?
 1. What about trials eligible for sanctioning that are already accepting entries?
 2. What enforcement available if handler refuses to sign?
 - c. Discussion
 - d. Motion
 - e. Board approval required
 - i. Roll call vote
- 7. Finals Qualification Committee Update (Cy Peterson)**
 - a. 2021 Finals qualifying discussion
 - i. Relevant materials will be posted on BC Boards, as they become available
 - ii. Need to bring representation from cattledog trial committee into discussion
 - b. What to do with aged-out Nursery dogs
 - c. Board discussion

8. Other Issues

- a. 2020 sanctioning fees
- b. Nomination/election of judges for 2021 Finals

9. Kunkel

- a. Per Board approval at May BOD meeting, sanction continuation letter posted to BC Boards
- b. Notification to Kunkel will be sent after BOD meeting

10. New Business

11. Adjourn

USBCHA-Directors' Meeting

Wednesday, July 8, 2020

5 PM PST, 8 PM EST

Attending:

Officers: Peter Hall, Linda DeJong, Marianna Schreeder, Pearse Ward

Directors: Amanda Milliken, Cy Peterson, David Saunders, Dianne Deal, Faansie Basson, Frank Smith, Jan Stebbins, Jennifer Boznos, Joe Haynes, John Palmer, Kay Stephens, Laura Vishoot, Linda Tesdahl, Lori Cunningham, Louanne Twa, Mary Minor, Mich Ferraro, Mike Neary, Milton Scott, Sue Schoen, Wyatt Fleming

Guests: Tracee Treadwell, Carol Clawson, Dianna Sylvestre

President's Opening Statement:

Will limit initial discussion to short statements from the directors in the interest of time management.

Covid-19 committee has proposed 3 rule changes which will be discussed individually and voted on separately from the guidelines. These interim rules will be reviewed on a quarterly basis, or more frequently as needed. All documents were posted on BC Boards for USBCHA Directors to review and comment prior to this meeting.

Covid-19 Committee

Kay: The committee has been tasked with job of researching medical data and other sources to review and recommend best practices. They have produced a number of documents for the BOD to review. The committee has attempted to balance the needs of safety with not unduly burdening hosts. Special thanks to all in committee who spent hours putting the information together.

Tracee: Continues to use sources cited in previous reports. Cases are continuing to rise with the US number one in cases globally. Different states show differences in number of new cases with significant rise in percentage of increase. Deaths do seem to be leveling off at this point. Reasons: younger are less prone to die but have more long-term consequences, increased testing allows earlier intervention, and finally there is a delay between rise in new cases versus reported deaths. Concern for long-term effects for people who are asymptomatic. In addition there are some indications that number of deaths is beginning to trend upwards in some states.

Virus is throughout country and our hope is to take steps to mitigate the effects.

Carol: Thanks to committee for hard work. Reminder to all that the committee has trial hosts as members so interests of trial hosts are represented.

Proposed interim Rules

1. Trial hosts, workers and participants are required to follow local rules and regulations gathering size limitations, travel restrictions, quarantine requirements of person entering a state, and any other local requirements in effect at the time of the event.

Discussion

Carol: This rule ensures compliance and gives protection to HA and to some degree to hosts who follow guidelines

BOD comments:

Thank you and acknowledgement of quality of work done by the committee.

General consensus was that this rule makes sense.

Motion: Adopt #1 Linda Tesdahl

Second: Mich Ferraro

Vote: Passed with no objections.

2. Trial hosts must provide handlers a list of safety protocols they intend to follow for the trial at the time entries open.

Discussion

The checklist is a tool for the hosts to be able to inform the handlers about what safety measures they are going to institute so handlers can make an informed decision before entering. The checklist is not intended to be "set in stone". The hosts can modify it and either check an item or not based on their individual circumstances. Hosts have a variety of options for informing handlers. Several options were discussed such as sending to USBCHA secretary for loading on Upcoming Trials, adding to their own website, combining it with entry form.

Motion: Adopt #2 Mike Neary

Second: Dianne Deal

Vote: Passed with 2 opposed

3. Trial hosts are required to refund entry fees of any handler that has any symptoms consistent with, or believes that they may have contracted Covid-19, or been exposed to Covid-19 up until the trial begins.

Discussion

This rule is for protection of handlers to encourage caution. Recognize it is a burden to hosts and there is potential for abuse either way, handlers claiming refund for no reason or host retaining money they should refund.

Discussion included difficulties for hosts to institute and possibility of loss of funds versus risk to health and life of handlers. Point was made that hosts have a variety of options to mitigate losses such as reducing payouts, adjusting number of sheep as close to trial as possible. Possibility of applying to USBCHA for relief in the event of major loss although the proposed rule does not address this. If there is a huge amount of abuse of the rule, the rule could be repealed. Also discussed moving from rule to guidelines. Concern expressed that this rule could affect hosts willingness to hold trials. Need for individuals to, at some point, take responsibility for own actions and exposure to risks. Discussed possibility of requiring a doctor's confirmation of a positive test result- concerns about medical confidentiality and how long it takes to get results.

Motion: Adopt #3 Amanda Milliken

Second: Sue Schoen

Vote: Passed 11 yes, 10 no

Guidelines:

Discussion:

Covid-19 Guidelines

Covid-19 Fact Sheet for Trial Hosts- posters suggested

Proposed Portable Toilet Financing Incentive- Decided to work with Marianna how to implement it. Idea was to help expenses for hosts. Proposed to just put out an announcement that HA would help defray costs. Need to keep it as simple as possible to implement and administer. Accept in principle

Motion: Accept guidelines Amanda Milliken

Second- Mich Ferraro

Passed No objections

Covid-19 Liability Concerns (Carol Clawson, Lori Cunningham)

Trial Release (Protects USBCHA only)

Implementation

Discussion

For members only, not for non-members, spectators or others at trial due to great variance in state regulations. The hosts will need to consult with their individual state/province for waivers for their trial. They also need to be aware that the USBCHA insurance has a virus and bacteria exclusion in the policy predating the pandemic. Hosts need to consult with their own insurance companies for their own policies

Also discussed was methods for member notification, electronic/paper signing and tracking/enforcement. Determined that Pearse Ward (webmaster) will create a form that can be signed on website; Linda will track who has signed. Information will be posted on website and a group email will be sent out.

Consequence for not signing waiver were discussed from losing points, denial of entry up to making member in good standing contingent on signing the waiver. Final decision will be based on level of compliance.

Primary purpose of waiver is to inform members about risks of attending trials, as well as protecting USBCHA from being sued.

Motion: Require HA members to sign a waiver- Lori Cunningham

Second: Cy Peterson

Vote: Passed no objections

Other Issues

Options for Annual Meeting: use of zoom, possibility to get a moderator, on line forum on website. Don't have to make final decision at this point.

New Business

Reminder that nominations are open for district and at large directors.

Adjourn Jan Stebbins

7 pm PST adjournment

USBCHA-Directors' Meeting

7/29/20
5 PM PST, 8 PM EST

Attending: Officers: Peter Hall, Linda DeJong, Marianna Schreeder
Directors: Joe Haynes, Mary Minor, Terri Warner, Jan Stebbins, Angie Coker-Sells, Wyatt Fleming, Faansie Basson, Kay Stephens, Mike Neary, Jennifer Boznos, Linda Tesdahl, Lori Cunningham, Mich Ferraro, Sue Schoen, David Saunders, Frank Smith, John Palmer, Amanda Milliken, Milton Scott, Louanne Twa, Dianne Deal, Laura Vishoot, Cy Peterson

President's Opening Statement

Cattledog Update: Bob Johnson reported he has been having some conversations with Bob Wagner of the NCA indicating some interest in some sort of rapprochement with the USBCHA. Peter will have an informal conversation with Bob Wagner in the next week or so but any serious conversation will need a USBCHA representative as well as including member/s of the Cattledog Finals Committee.

Rule-Making

Proposal: This proposal will not affect any rules already passed and is partly in response to member feedback on the Interim rules. It is proposed that there be a 30-day comment period, possibly setting up a section on the USBCHA website to allow this. Question is whether there needs to be a change in the bylaws for this to happen.

Discussion/comments/amendments: The BOD is elected to represent their districts in order to simplify this. The Board then can choose a committee to help them make a decision and/or can do self-research to make decisions for their district. Question was raised whether opening every major decision to all members would complicate rather than simplify things, slow down the process and create more confusion. Alternate comment that many rules come without a lot of prior input from the members. Also a comment does not mean the Board has to act on it. Discussion was tabled to be examined in more depth at a later time.

Insurance

There is need for clarification on definitions in policies to make sure we are getting coverage HA expects and is paying for. We are getting contradictory answers to question so need clarifications in writing from underwriters. Peter willing to take initiative on this.

Discussion/comments

Suggestion consult with Dick Williams who was involved in developing the update in insurance in 2008. Peter will work on this and bring information to the board.

Outside Counsel:

Proposal: Independent 3rd party opinion on proposed rule and bylaw changes will reduce the burden on members volunteering time and expertise. Possibly could review HA insurance policies.

Discussion/comments

Not a reflection on all the pro bono work done by members but is consuming a lot of their time. Peter is currently considering Walker Jones PC located in Washington, VA and will discuss with them the kinds of issues the HA is likely to deal with. Discussion of what the expectations of outside counsel would be and possible affects of passage of bill in congress protecting business and whether it would protect USBCHA.

Motion: Peter will start process of engaging an independent counsel and report back to the board for consideration

Second: Cy Peterson

Vote: Passed no objections

Waiver/Release, Checklist

Background/actions taken: Waiver was pulled from website due to objections pertaining primarily to the indemnity provision (protection against loss and other financial burden) Lori & Carol reviewed the waiver and engaged with the persons who objected to the waiver. Peter requested some changes to remove direct references to Covid and change to more generic infections.

Proposal/changes- Documents have been posted for review by directors.

Areas of agreement:

1. HA has traditionally had low liability but more suits are happening and greater numbers and variability of participant increases risk.
2. A waiver of some sort is a good idea. Possibly a general waiver as well as one specific to covid-19

Disagreement

Indemnity clause

Point was made that indemnity is a very industry specific. Kind of club we are doesn't really match any other organization but similar organizations use similar language. The disputed area is a few sentences.

Worst case scenario is we get hit with major suit not covered by insurance. Likely won't happen but could. If we pull out indemnity clause- waiver will still be valuable. Need to decide whether to leave it in or not.

If host is named insured- will be covered. Possible volunteers will be covered.

Discussion:

Different states handle waivers differently so it is difficult to determine how much waiver would protect HA and hosts in every state. Initially hosts were left off the waiver to avoid misleading host into thinking they were covered when they were not. Since then it looks like, if a host is added to insurance as named insured by paying the additional fee, that they would be covered.

May need to do further research before rolling out the updated waiver. Peter will do further checks with insurance company before posting the new waiver form.

The only major changes is indemnity and adding hosts.

Discussed whether insurance covers Canadian trials- it does not.

Also discussed was whether hosts are confusing guidelines, which are advisory from rules and making them think the waiver increases their liability.

Suggested that Peter write a letter to the membership to clarify rules versus guidelines and reduce confusion. The letter would be posted on the website and Linda will send out the information using the group email

Motion: Check the insurance, determine whether to leave in indemnity clause and roll out. Peter will write letter post on website and group email. Passed with no objections

Interim Rules:

Background: Lot of objection to some of rules, especially regarding mandatory refunds.

A point was made that people are looking for certainty- concern about revisiting at a later time and encouragement to make a decision.

Comment that there is a lot of variation among regions and that the 5-2 solution of top 2 from 2020 and 3 from 2021 would be a fair way to meet the needs.

Directors addressed feedback received from their regions. Some districts had strong support for carry over of points while other districts expressed preference to start year fresh.

It was stated that we are more likely to get best teams if we take some points from times when normal traveling was allowed.

A compromise and best option for giving some certainty to make decisions would be the 5-2 option. Important to make a commitment

Motion: Sue Schoen- **adopt the 5-2 option** for the 2021 season:

Second: Amanda Milliken

Vote: Motion carried by roll call vote

Suggestion was made that for Nursery- dogs that aged out receive some open points. No discussion or motion was made.

2022 Sheepdog Finals

Discussion of what to do if 2021 finals also canceled. Decision was tabled as to speculative at this time

New Business

Annual Member Meeting: need to touch base with membership- looking for suggestions.

ABCA Meeting-Eileen Stein president asked about annual meeting.

Officer elections: Nomination open shortly until Oct 5.

Plan how to roll out plan for changes to qualifying- put announcement on website. Will be circulated.

Rules

Part II(A)(a) of the rules needs clarification: Suggestion rules committee to look at it as the wording is a little vague.

Adjourn: Linda Tesdahl

6:15

Addendum: it was determined that the change of qualifying points would require a change in bylaws which requires a vote by the general membership. Ballots will be posted and accepted until Oct 23.

Rules:

i. Trial hosts, workers and participants are required to follow local rules and regulations regarding gathering size limitations, travel restrictions, quarantine requirements of persons entering a state, province or region, and any other local requirements in effect at the time of the event.

ii. Trial hosts are required to refund entry fees of any handler that has any symptoms consistent with, or believes that they may have contracted Covid 19, or been exposed to Covid 19 up until the trial begins.

iii. Trial hosts must provide Handlers a list of safety protocols they intend to follow for the trial at the time entries open.

Guidelines:

Guidelines are posted on Directors' Forum and USBCHA website for review.

Discussion/amendments:

Discussed moving interim rules to best practices/guidelines. Also discussed trusting hosts and handler to make the right choices. Concern was expressed that reversing decisions based on objections by the loudest members is not a good precedent. Suggested that better option is for board to review decisions and make amendments if decision is made that they are needed. Point was also made that the interim rules are for 3 months and not meant to be permanent. They were made based on well informed decisions and best information available. Each trial host is going to have to make decision on whether to hold a trial or to downsize it.

Motion: Amanda Milliken: HA will reimburse host for scratches made in last 14 days prior to trial that result from covid-19 symptom or exposure until the rule expires for open and nursery only.

Second: Mike Neary

Vote: Passed with one no

Portable Toilet Financing Incentive

Accepted in principle at last Board meeting. Both options proposed are administratively complex.

Proposal: Proposing grant to offset trial host expense for additional portable toilets washing stands and/or supplies

Cap on funds per trial (\$150)

Cap on total available funds

Approach ABCA for matching funds

Discussion: Will be addition to reimbursement or replace. Noted can be less expensive to rent more than less. Need to simplify. Suggested flat grant of \$150

Motion: Amanda: Host can apply to HA for up to \$150 for portapotties etc. while interim rules are in effect.

Second: Angie Coker-Sells

Vote: Passed with no objection

New Business:

Qualifying for 2021 finals- need to revisit. Use forum and committee revisit.

Adjourn: 7:12 PM

USBCHA-Directors' Meeting

August 31, 2020

Attending:

Officers: Peter Hall, Linda DeJong, Marianna Schreeder

Directors: Amanda Milliken, Cy Peterson, David Saunders, Dianne Deal, Faansie Basson, Frank Smith, Jan Stebbins, Jennifer Boznos, Joe Haynes, John Palmer, Kay Stephens, Laura Vishoot, Linda Tesdahl, Lori Cunningham, Louanne Twa, Mary Minor, Mich Ferraro, Mike Neary, Milton Scott, Sue Schoen, Terri Warner, Wyatt Fleming

Guests:

President's Opening Statement

The USBCHA Covid-19 refund policy announced has been announced- Thanks to Linda and Pearse, there is an easy on-line form for submitting requests.

PPPP grant announced

Purina Pro Plan Winner is Faansie Basson

Anyone who has put on a trial or attended a trial and has feedback re infection control is encouraged to let Pearse know so it can be posted.

Director elections are on-going with 130 ballots in as of this meeting.

Peter had a conversation with Bob Wagner about possibility of NCA co-sanctioning with USBCHA. Peter told him that he is not in position to make any commitment on the part of the USBCHA but there is a possibility a committee might be formed to examine the issue. Peter will give a written summary of conversation.

Comment from board: This issue was raised last year and voted down

Insurance Update:

Clarification from Sportsmen's policy coverage has been received and posted to BC Board. Still not very clear but company basically said USBCHA should be listed as the additional insured by the trials rather than hosts being additional insured. If that is the case the insurance applies only to the National Finals and we should not be offering additional insured to trial host with our current insurance. Peter has pursued alternate insurance companies and has not found any that would better meet our needs. He will continue researching the issue.

Waiver/Release

Feedback received has been received and waivers used by other organizations have been looked at but not exactly match the USBCHA model. The question is whether to include waiver/indemnity clause or just improve current waiver and leave out indemnity. Final decision is dependent on final insurance. The issue was tabled without discussion

2021 Finals Qualifications

Committee Report- Cy Peterson

5 options were presented on BC board. Committee recommendation is no changes to qualifications. It is premature to change qualification at this point. Early results from trials indicates that people are traveling and competing. The number of trials posted at this time is in line with previous years.

Nursery qualifying is closed for 2020 based on previous decision of board

Discussion/Comments

USBCHA-DIRECTOR'S MEETING

November 4, 2020

5 PM PST, 8 PM EST

Present:

Officers- Peter Hall, Marianna Schreeder, Linda DeJong, Linda Tesdahl

Directors- Mary Minor, Jan Stebbins, Angie Coker-Sells, Wyatt Fleming, Kay Stephens, Mike Neary, Jennifer Boznos, Linda Tesdahl, Lori Cunningham, Mich Ferraro, Sue Schoen, David Saunders, Frank Smith, John Palmer, Amanda Milliken, Milton Scott, Dianne Deal Laura Vishoot, Cy Peterson

1. Bylaw Change Vote Results

a. Vote was to amend bylaws for 2021 Sheepdog Finals Qualifying

1. Yes: 129

2. No: 173

b. **Result: Bylaws will not change**

2. Interim Rules – Discussion concerned whether to extend Interim Rules (Part IIa: Interim Rules Pertaining to Covid-19 Pandemic) another 90 days

a. Interim rules were adopted July 8, 2020 and were to remain in effect for 90 days from the date of adoption unless extended by a majority vote of the USBCHA Board of Directors.

b. While interim rules pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic were in effect, USBCHA would reimburse trial hosts for refunds of sanctioned class entry fees (Open and Nursery) made to handlers who withdraw within 14 days of a trial's start date due to COVID-19 symptoms or suspected exposure to COVID-19.

c. Outside the context of the Interim Rules, USBCHA also offered mitigation grants to trials hosts of \$150 to help with additional costs associated with porta-johns and sanitation supplies; and reduced the sanctioning deadline to no less than 5 days (from 30) before the trial open date.

d. Statistics – Marianna

i. USBCHA has issued about \$3,600 in mitigation grants, potentially increasing to \$6,700 through the end of October.

ii. Refunds have only been around \$1,000 so far. Hosts seem to be using it as intended and not requesting refunds when able to fill scratches from their waiting list.

e. Comments

i. Experience seems to show mitigation has been helpful allowing trial hosts to have best conditions possible.

ii. There is no current evidence of any COVID outbreaks as a result of trials so far.

iii. Price of porta-johns has gone up so the mitigation grant has been very helpful to hosts of smaller trials

f. Discussion: Whether to extend or remove Interim Rules

i. Directors discussed whether it was necessary to extend the interim rules or whether to separate the mitigation and 5 day emergency sanctioning from the interim rules.

ii. Also discussed was whether the interim rules were within the mission of the USBCHA.

- iii. Question was asked why the interim rules should be dropped just as the Covid crisis is intensifying, noting that the original decision was made based on expert advice.

g. Motion: Do not extend interim rules for another 90 days (Jan Stebbins).

i. **Second: Frank Smith**

ii. **Vote: Motion defeated in a rollcall vote. Interim Rules are extended through Jan 31.**

3. Temporary 5-day notice for sanctioning

a. Discussion:

- i. Rule should be same for both open and nursery.
- ii. Reminder that hosts can still ask for waiver if circumstances require less than 30 days before entries open.
- iii. Point made that there now seems to be a lot of trials so emergency notice is no longer necessary.
- iv. Question was raised about hosts rescheduling a trial due to either Covid outbreak, weather or other unforeseen circumstances.
- v. Linda, as secretary, informed directors that she has already allowed hosts to do so for a variety of reasons- the only requirement is that the handlers entering the trial be kept informed.

b. Motion: Return to 30 days and require mitigation refunds be requested within 21 days after trial (Mike Neary)

i. **Second Amanda Milliken**

ii. **Vote: passed without objection**

4. Insurance Update

a. Summary memo of USBCHA general liability coverage posted on BC Boards

i. Findings

- 1. Memo questions value of USBCHA'S "Additional Insured" option for trial hosts.
- 2. Research and consultation with the insurance company suggests the HA's GL policy does not protect trials hosts.
 - a. For example, additional insured coverage would only apply if HA caused injury, which is unlikely as USBCHA only sanctions trials and does not control trials from a liability perspective
- 3. HA GL insurance applies only to the Finals

b. Discussion:

- i. HA needs to see if other agencies are willing to provide desired additional insured coverage for a reasonable price.
- ii. Although preliminary research suggests this is not likely, HA needs to solicit bids from other companies to see if one could meet our needs better.
- iii. USBCHA needs to withdraw additional insured coverage for trial hosts at this time.
- iv. USBCHA should update Trial Resources web page with list of agents that trial hosts can contact for insurance.

5. Waiver/release status

a. Proposal to remove indemnify clauses introduced.

b. Discussion:

- i. Do we need to change waiver form, and do we need a waiver at all?
- ii. Discussion tabled until next meeting.

6. Officer Elections

- a. Vice President was the only contested position:
- b. Vote: Roll call: Russell McCord begins as Vice President Jan 1**

7. New Business

- a. New Directors terms begin Nov 15
- b. Annual Member meeting
 - i. ABCA has not determined format of their annual meeting yet
 - ii. In lieu of a meeting, USBCHA annual report must be posted on website prior to end of calendar year
 - iii. Question: Should we hold the annual meeting at Bluegrass?

8. Finals judges:

- a. It was previously decided that in January, 2021 USBCHA will notify judges who were selected for 2020 to have right of first refusal for 2021.
- b. Discussed whether to contact judges earlier than that.
- c. Decided that Peter will notify all the judges this month.

9. Peter thanked outgoing directors for their service.

**Adjournment: Motion to adjourn (Linda Tesdahl)
Second Cy Peterson**

Adjourned at 6:17 PM

2020 USBCHA Annual Report

Article 6.2 of the USBCHA Bylaws requires the President to present an annual report at the annual meeting or post such report on the Association's website before the end of the calendar year that shall cover the financial condition of the Association and may address other matters that are of interest or concern to the Association.

Suffice it to say, 2020 will not be the year looked fondly upon by USBCHA members. Across North America, and indeed around the world, trials were canceled due to public health and travel restrictions, resulting in USBCHA's cancelation of both National Finals in October, cancelation of the International and postponement of the World Trial in September, cancelation of the Continental Sheepdog Championship, and on and on. Due to uncertainty about the course of the pandemic in 2021, the World Sheepdog Trials has again been postponed, at least through 2023. Here, in the U.S. and Canada, we anxiously look for a glimmer of hope in our daily doom-scrolling through the Internet.

Governance

The USBCHA Board of Directors (Board) was particularly active in 2020, much of which was attributable to the pandemic. In all, the Board met via teleconference nine times to discuss matters of concern to the HA and its members, and addressed these issues with due diligence and professionalism for which I am grateful. Specific issues are annotated in the minutes, which are posted on the USBCHA website. A summary of Board actions related to Covid-19 is presented later in this report.

Board elections were held in September/October, where new Directors in Districts 2 (Jamie Spring), 3 (Bob Allen), 4 (Russell McCord), 6 (Bob Washer), 8 (Marianna Schreeder), 9 (Tracy Hinton) and At-Large (Scott Glen) were elected by the membership. I want to thank Terri Warner, Angie Coker-Sells, Faansie Basson, Linda Tesdahl, David Saunders, John Palmer and Dianne Deal for all their hard work during their terms as Directors. Officer elections were held in November, where positions for Secretary, Treasurer and President were unopposed. The Board voted Russell McCord to be Vice-President, and his term begins January 1, 2021. In addition, Pearse Ward accepted the position of Webmaster in February and has made numerous improvements to the USBCHA web site.

Pandemic

The most significant topic of Board matters in 2020 was the pandemic. Covid-19 was introduced as an agenda topic in March at an Emergency Directors Meeting, where the Board was briefed on the emerging public health crisis and then debated how the HA should respond. In that meeting, I was directed to appoint a Covid-19 Committee to advise the Board on USBCHA activities, including trial sanctioning, Finals qualifying and conditions under which the Finals could be held. At that meeting, the Board voted to suspend sanctioning through early May and reduced the HA's Trial Approval requirement to facilitate holding sanctioned trials when the suspension is lifted. I subsequently appointed a Covid-19 Advisory Committee that included several Board members, in addition to two professionals from the membership – an infectious disease specialist who previously worked at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and a medical doctor. In addition, a Finals Qualification Committee was formed. In an Emergency Directors Meeting held in April, the committee's recommendation to extend withholding trial sanctioning through June 10 was approved by the Board.

In a May BOD meeting, following a briefing from the 2020 Sheepdog Finals Committee, the Board voted to cancel the 2020 Finals scheduled for Belle Grove in October, and to return to Belle Grove in 2021. The suspension of sheepdog and cattle dog trial sanctioning was extended to August 1. Also in May, the National Cattle Dog Committee voted unanimously to cancel the 2020 Cattle Dog Finals, which in June was accepted by the Board with a recommendation to return the 2021 Finals to Sandeen Farm on a date to be determined. In June, the Board also voted to resume trial sanctioning on August 1 and, on the recommendation of the Finals Qualification Committee, voted to leave Nursery qualification criteria for the 2021 Finals unchanged.

In order to protect handlers when sanctioned trials resume in August, USBCHA adopted Interim Rules Pertaining to the Covid-19 Pandemic which required trial hosts to follow local public health regulations, publish safety protocols and refund entry fees to symptomatic or potentially exposed handlers who withdraw from a trial. Regarding the latter, the Board approved a motion requiring USBCHA to reimburse trial hosts for refunds of sanctioned class entry fees made to handlers who withdraw due to Covid-19 while the interim rules are in effect. At the same July BOD meeting, I was directed to design a financing scheme to reimburse trial hosts for additional expenses that may be needed to satisfy local regulations for outdoor gatherings. USBCHA has since offered grants of \$150 per sanctioned trial or approved event to help with these costs. Originally in effect for 90 days, the Board extended the interim rules through January 31, 2021 and the rules are expected to be reviewed again at the next BOD meeting. Through the end of 2020, USBCHA has issued \$4,950 in mitigation grants (with another \$450 earmarked for trials scheduled in January, 2021) and \$1,372 in entry fee refunds.

Finally, the Board addressed 2021 Sheepdog Finals Qualifications for Open dogs. While the Finals Qualification Committee recommended no changes to the current qualifying rules, as defined in Article XI of the USBCHA Bylaws, the Board proposed a 5-2 option, which would allow a dog to carry over points from up to two trials from the 2020 trial year in the computation of 2021 points. Since this would require an amendment to the Bylaws, which by Article X requires membership approval by a two-thirds vote, the proposed amendment was presented to members, and was defeated.

While many trials continue to be canceled due to the pandemic, I have been extremely pleased to see and hear that hosts and handlers are adhering to safety protocols in trials that have taken place. I need not remind everyone, however, that the pandemic has not yet run its course, and that continued cooperation is needed between handlers, trial hosts and public health authorities if our sport is to return to form.

Financials

A review of USBCHA's accounts through 2019 shows a modest gain in net income over 2018 (\$25,091 vs. \$21,013), even though total income declined by about \$4,000. At the end of 2019, USBCHA's total current assets amounted to \$372,151 compared to \$342,058 in 2018. Approximately 60% of current assets are parked in an Ameriprise Investment Account, with the remainder split between checking and savings. A member in good standing may request a copy of the 2019 financials by contacting the Treasurer.

2020 financials are preliminary, and have not yet been reviewed by the Finance Committee or Tax Advisor, but show a significant decline in income, primarily due to a drop in sanctioning fees, grants and Finals entry fees. However, in the absence of Finals costs, expenses were considerably lower, even with

COVID-19 related disbursements, resulting in an increase to net income. Also, in 2020 USBCHA transferred its investment dollars from RBC to Ameriprise to maintain a cost-beneficial relationship with our financial advisors. USBCHA also increased its investment holdings with a transfer of \$48,811 from its checking account.

World Sheepdog Trials

As reported earlier, the ISDS canceled the 2020 World Sheepdog Trials and subsequently postponed the trials to at least 2023. In preparation for the event, U.S. and Canadian teams had been selected, and fundraising for the U.S. team was underway. With postponement of the trials and realization that by the time the next trial is held the composition of the U.S. team will likely be different, the World Trial Committee requested USBCHA to hold the funds it had raised for a future team. These funds (\$14,516) are currently househanded in a subaccount of the HA's investment account and for transparency are tracked as a separate line item in its accounting system.

Sponsorship

Despite cancellation of the Finals, Purina Pro Plan continued its annual sponsorship of the USBCHA, allowing the HA to earmark the 2020 funds for the 2021 Finals or any operating needs this year. In addition, Purina Pro Plan awarded USBCHA \$1,500 for the purchase of two new countdown timers for use at the Finals. Finally, Faansie Basson's Jack won the 2020 Nestle Purina Award for the Outstanding Field Trial Herding Dog for the 2019- 2020 trial year. The award includes an oil painting of the winning dog, a cash prize of \$1,000.00 (\$2,000.00 if an active Purina Pro Club member) and a year's supply of Pro Plan. The award will be presented at a trial TBD. Please thank Purina for its continued sponsorship of the USBCHA, and congratulations to Faansie. Note also that Paw Print Genetics has again partnered with USBCHA so that members can save on genetic testing. Please refer to the USBCHA web site for additional information.

General Liability Insurance

During its consultations regarding the impact of the Coronavirus on sanctioned trials, the Covid-19 Advisory Committee reviewed the HA's General Liability (GL) insurance coverage. The committee found several ambiguities in the interpretation of our policy by agents of our insurance provider and, following discussions with the Board, I was tasked to solicit clarification on the policy's coverage and how it relates to trial hosts, particularly with respect to the Additional Insured option that USBCHA offers. After a comprehensive review of the USBCHA GL insurance policy and additional research on the offerings of other providers, it appears the USBCHA's GL insurance basically covers the two events hosted by the USBCHA (i.e. the two Finals). It was determined that because USBCHA is a sanctioning organization and does not otherwise control the trials it sanctions, trial hosts would have significant gaps in coverage if they relied on the Additional Insured status through the HA's policy. Because of this, the USBCHA regrettably has withdrawn the additional insured option previously extended to trial hosts of sanctioned trials. We encourage trial hosts to obtain their own General Liability coverage for events they hold. We are investigating other options and hope to be able to publish insurance resources on the website identifying insurance carriers and agents who would offer affordable GL coverage to trial hosts and information about the type of coverage trial hosts should purchase.

Looking Forward to 2021

Looking forward, we hope the public health situation will allow trialing to resume in earnest by late Spring 2021, and that the Finals will take place as scheduled. I will be convening the new Board in January to help guide the USBCHA through these turbulent times. Happy New Year, stay safe and good luck trialing in the coming year.