

Ontario Eventing Association Board of Directors Meeting
July 12th 2021
Final Minutes

Present: Ann Neal, Justin Ridgewell, Kendal Lehari, Terri Hough-Gilmour, Veronica Low, Cheryl Denault, Caroline Abrahams, Char Hodgson, Sarah Richardson, Kelly Gravelle, Nikki Maclellan, Doug Topalovic, Selena O’Hanlon

Regrets: Laura McGuire

Call to Order: 7:09 p.m.

1. Meeting Opening

*Veronica moved, Cheryl seconded and it was carried to approve the agenda.
Veronica moved, Kelly seconded and it was carried to approve the June 14th minutes.*

2. OEA Membership Fees for 2022

Caroline noted that the OE is requesting OEA’s membership renewal policy and fees for 2022. It was determined that the current 2021 fee structure should remain the same for all categories of membership, and that we should waive late fees.

Ann moved, Justin seconded and it was carried that membership fees remain at current (2021) levels for the 2022 season, and that late fees be waived.

Veronica moved and Justin carried that new memberships purchased on October 1st, 2021 or later will be valid for the 2022 season.

3. Treasurers Report

Cheryl provided an update on OEA financials. Expenses are less than forecasted in our budget. It is unlikely that we will be able to secure an OEA credit card and we will likely have to continue to use personal credit cards for OEA purchases.

4. Committee Reports

a. Governance & Policy

Ann reported that our OEA motions database has been updated by Caroline and is available on the OEA OneDrive for Directors. Doug has posted our updated policies on the website and at present we have no further updates on policies.

Ann noted that we have not yet confirmed with the Nottawasaga Resort about a rollover or refund of our deposit for an in person banquet, based on the decision we’ve made not to have an in person banquet for 2022.

b. Communications

Char noted that start times are getting posted on the website for events the Thursday before. She also noted that she will start sending out blasts with reminders of upcoming closing dates now that the season is underway. She reminded Directors to let her know if there is any additional information that should be sent out with these blasts. It was suggested that we also need to remind members to sign up for the Adult Rider award and to sign up for the Thoroughbred Incentive Program.

The notion of making videos about jump judging was discussed as a potential communications vehicle to promote volunteering

c. Sport Development

Young Rider/U25:

Veronica reported that we have clinics are going very well with a Garry Roque and Peter Gray clinic coming up and we may wish to extend those closing dates. The selection committee was out at WilloWind. There are some prizes left over from last year that should be distributed.

There was a discussion about how these clinics are being promoted and that some adult riders feel excluded. It was clarified that the clinics are available to all riders and it was agreed that we would change the naming of these clinics to “OEA clinics” to attract more riders and clarify eligibility.

Coaching:

Kendal noted that information on coach licensing is now on the EC website. It was agreed that we should link OE and EC on all of our posts related to similar initiatives. Ann noted that it appears that we have a few coaches who are now licensed, although Char identified that she doesn't have sufficient information or confirmed information to turn this into a post at present. Justin suggested that licensure is the first stage of credentials and we may not want to promote this until coaches obtain certification.

Schooling Days:

Sarah reported that she is still working towards the July 20th dressage schooling day as well as an August 4th date at Stevens Creek. Bronte Creek is still on track for a September 18th schooling day. Char noted that Wits End is still deciding on a date for their venue.

The fee structure for schooling days was discussed. Currently the charge per rider is \$50 although the rate for clinicians varies. Generally we still pay \$500 for the venue and for porta potties. The venue also receives any entry fees over and above the cost of the clinician. The schooling days are a cost to the OEA, but also a strategy to increase interest.

d. Competitions

Organizers:

There was an organizers meeting after the June board meeting. About half the organizers showed up and there will be a learning curve as they get to know Laura and Cheryl. Our decision from last month to repurpose the volunteer funds was well received. There is no next meeting currently booked but will try to get something in for fall.

It was reported that the frangible devices have arrived and an email has been sent to everyone who indicated an interest. To date there was less interest than originally expected but it was suggested that a few organizers have yet to submit their requests. It was also suggested that we need to clarify the cost to organizers of obtaining the frangibles.

Ann and Veronica noted that they made a social media post about receiving and delivering the safety clips and it was emphasized that we should do this more often to ensure members are aware of efforts being made by the OEA on their behalf.

Volunteers:

It was discussed that a membership database had been agreed to at the last meeting but no progress yet on that front. Discussion ensued about the purpose of the database and it was clarified that no venue would have to contribute their own list of volunteers – but it would be a resource for venues who find themselves short.

Officials

Ann noted that we have not yet convened a meeting with TDs although there are plans to have this meeting and possibly to make a video about the role of a TD (A Day in the Life) as a promotion vehicle to attract more individuals to get qualified.

5. Other Matters

a. Pinnies

We only have about 15 left. It was agreed that Char would reach out to the manufacturer about producing more, but we may need to increase the price for riders to cover current costs of approximately \$25 per pinnie.

b. Thoroughbred Incentive Program (TIP)

Ann noted that she needs assistance from a Director to manage this program.

c. RBC's program with NSO's to identify talent

Ann noted that this is a program run by the Royal Bank of Canada with Donovan Bailey to identify sports talent. Can we table this for a discussion next month for potential for our potential eventers?

d. Governance of other equestrian sports

Discussion ensued about how other disciplines are governed and if there is an opportunity to work closer together as interest has been expressed from the hunter/jumper sector in combined tests.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on August 9th , 2021