

JAN MANNION

Amateur Committee Meeting Minutes  
convention # September 30, 2011

The Amateur Committee was represented yesterday by a group consisting of 9 committee members, 7 visitors, our EC liason Ron Shelly and our staff liason.

After reviewing & approving the minutes from our last meeting, we moved right into our agenda items.

Our committee approved clarifications for 3 rules within our program, which were all then approved by the Rules Committee.

- 1<sup>st</sup> – clarified that Amateur Walk-Trot cardholders are not allowed to lope in non-APHA classes at APHA-approved shows.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – changed wording in Amateur Rookie of the Year rule to make clear that Walk-Trot cardholders are included in award eligibility.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – concurred with the Youth Committee that Hunt Seat Eq Over Fences is a unique skill set and should be split into its own category for Novice eligibility instead of grouped with Hunt Seat Eq.

The Amateur Committee would like to see more promotion of the Amateur Walk-Trot program both within the association and outside of it, as we feel there is a large potential for growth in this area. Among other things, we'd like to see testimonials from Walk-Trot Amateurs run in the Connection in the future attesting to the program's value to exhibitors.

Next, we moved into looking at rule change proposals for the 2013 Rule Book. We agreed on wording to address same-sex marriage in Amateur ownership eligibility, and discussed policies regarding common law marriage.

The Youth Committee asked us to discuss eligibility limitations of Youth working as trainers. The Amateur Committee feels strongly that Youth should be held to the same guidelines as adults in this regard.

We then resumed discussion from Workshop about leasing and permits for showing non-owned horses. Our committee has discussed this topic at length for several years now carefully weighing all angles of the situation. As a committee, we unanimously feel that there is no overwhelming benefit to allowing such activity; that policing would be extremely difficult, that it would potentially open the association to litigation, and that there are already many avenues for trying out a horse.

The Executive Committee asked us to discuss whether we felt there should be changes made to the distance between approved shows. Given that there is such an extreme variation in geography and travel time from the East Coast to the West Coast and internationally, the committee could not foresee an easy solution to the situation. We do feel that more cooperation among clubs regionally would go a long way. Otherwise, the market will sort it out over time.

In the last half-hour of our meeting, we shared ideas that are working to drive entries at shows in our respective areas of the country. The "all day fee" is by far the most well-received tactic by all involved, and something worth considering for shows not yet using it. Sharing helpful communication with

exhibitors in advance of a show, and circuit awards are other well-received ideas.

With that, we adjourned at 5 p.m.

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THOSE IN ATTENDANCE—

Committee members: Melanie Cox-Dayhuff (Chair), Jan Mannion (Vice Chair), Joy Bearden, Jimmy Harrison, Marilyn Novat, Robin Robinett, Michelle Simmelink-Rask, Annie Suratt, Ike Swofford

Visitors: Fred Cole, Kathy Hill, Erin Henderson, Linda Lewis, Gwen Russell, Shannon O'Dell, Jeri Stone

EC Representative: Ron Shelly

Staff Liason: Amy Stapleton

