



**USAWE Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**



**Meeting Date:** November 29, 2023

**Meeting Time:** 5:00 p.m. Pacific, 6:00 p.m. Mountain, 7:00 p.m. Central, 8:00 p.m. Eastern

**Meeting Frequency/Modality:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday each month held virtually via Zoom

**Agenda:** Sent 11.27.2023 and posted to USAWE.org > Corporate > Records > Meeting Minutes and filed in USAWE G-Drive > Board of Directors (BOD) > Board Meetings folder by Secretary Kris Blacklock

**Minutes:** The 11.29.2023 Minutes were e-approved 11.30.2023 and posted to the USAWE.org > Corporate > Records > Meeting Minutes and filed in USAWE G-Drive > Board of Directors (BOD) folder

**NEXT MEETING – December 14, 2023.** Agenda items due (14 days prior to meeting) using the online [Board Agenda Item Request Form](#) located on the usawe.org website > Corporate > Records page

Board of Directors in attendance for all or part of the meeting:		Attendance at Roll Call	
Executive Committee		Present	Absent
President	Chris Stanko	P	
President Elect	Doreen Atkinson	P	
Secretary	Kris Blacklock	P	
Treasurer	Leesa Nero <span style="color: red;">Excused</span>		<span style="color: red;">A</span>
At Large Director 1	Robin Bond	P	
At Large Director 2	Stephanie Hayes	P	
Regional Directors			
R1 Director	Heather Humelbaugh	P	
R2 Director	Katie Franklin	P	
R3 Director	Linda Frazier	P	
R4 Director	Kiki Pantaze	P	
R5 Director	Becky Sherven	P	
R6 Director	Amie Perryman	P	
R7 Director	Rebecca Algar	P	

Current # of Board members = 13 | 7 BOD members required for Quorum.  
 # BOD members in attendance at roll call = 12 | Quorum was established.  
 BOD Meeting Attendance Log was updated.

Non-voting USAWE Committee Chairs in attendance for all or part of the meeting					
Affiliate Organizations	Kristine Strasburger	P		International Competition	Kellee Campbell <span style="color: red;">A</span>
Awards	Bridgett Klingler	<span style="color: red;">A</span>		Licensed Officials (co-chairs)	Christy Reich <span style="color: red;">P</span>
Professional Development (fka Coaches Network)	Sue Watkins	P			Doreen Atkinson <span style="color: red;">P</span>
Competitions	Kim Hillyer	P		Marketing	Amie Perryman <span style="color: red;">P</span>
Elections	Biddie Lowry	P		Membership	Kate Steffes <span style="color: red;">A</span>
Ethics	Dan Dahlke <small>Joined 6:01pm</small>	P		Rules	Jeanne Bond <span style="color: red;">P</span>
Financial Oversight	Terri O'Neal	<span style="color: red;">A</span>		Website	Kristine Strasburger <span style="color: red;">P</span>
Horse Recording	Mindy Finelli	<span style="color: red;">A</span>		Youth Development	Kasey Riddle <span style="color: red;">P</span>
Task Force Leads in attendance for all or part of the meeting					
Bylaws	After P&P reviews	--		Quality Assurance	Lidia Taylor <span style="color: red;">A</span>
Championship Show Structure	Chris Stanko	P		Strategic Planning	Doreen Atkinson <span style="color: red;">P</span>

Current # of Committee Chairs/Task Force Leads = 19; 13 in attendance.

Excused = notified Secretary and President in advance director (or chair) was unable to attend the meeting.

**Meeting Zoom Link requested by:** Sara Barnwell (R5-MI), Sara Mackenzie (R1-WA), Tracey Erway (R1-OR), Pat Melton (R7-NC), Darren Hawks (R2-CA), Nicole Lee (R6-PA), Martha Ryan (R6-PA), Karen Boso (R5-IL), Willa Rose (R1-ID)

**Meeting Invite & Zoom Link sent to newly elected directors:** Tracey Erway (R1-OR), Incumbent Robin Bond (R2-CA), Sara Mackenzie (R1-WA), Chris Stanko (R3-CO), Sara Barnwell (R5-MI), Pat Melton (R7-NC)

**USAWE Members in attendance for all or part of the meeting:** Sara Barnwell (R5-MI), Sara Mackenzie (R1-WA), Tracey Erway (R1-OR), Pat Melton (R7-NC), Nicole Lee (R6-PA), Karen Boso (R5-IL), Leslie Martien (R3-CO), Lynn Maloney (R6-PA), Julie Alonzo (R1-OR), Glynn Hoekstra, (R2-CA), Karen Boso (R5-IL)

**Call to Order: President Chris Stanko called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM Pacific Time.**

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**IN APPRECIATION – BOARD OF DIRECTORS** – *Chris Stanko, President*

- Appreciation to board members ending their term November 30<sup>th</sup> – **Chris Stanko** (President), **Doreen Atkinson** (President Elect), **Heather Humelbaugh** (R1 Director), **Linda Frazier** (R3 Director), **Becky Sherven** (R5 Director) and **Rebecca Algar** (R7 Director)
- Welcome to new board members starting their term Dec 1<sup>st</sup> – **Doreen Atkinson** (President), **Tracey Erway** (President Elect), **Robin Bond** (At-Large Director 1), **Sara Mackenzie** (R1 Director), **Chris Stanko** (R3 Director), **Sara Barnwell** (R5 Director) and **Pat Melton** (R7 Director)
- Appreciation to board members continuing their term – **Kris Blacklock** Secretary, **Leesa Nero** Treasurer, **Stephanie Hayes** At Large Director 2, **Katie Franklin** Region 2 Director, **Kiki Pantaze** Region 4 Director, **Amie Perryman** Region 6 Director

Thank you for your time and commitment. President Stanko asked directors and committees to Believe in USAWE, Listen with curiosity, Be kind, Work as a team, Be compassionate, Be strong, Keep an open mind, Communicate with less email and more personal contact using the phone, Take minutes or record meetings.

**BUDGET & FINANCIAL REPORT:** Prior to the meeting, Treasurer Leesa Nero provided 2023 Budget vs Actual Income/Expenses and financials/bank reconciliations through November 4, 2023.

Current Funds:	U.S. Bank Checking #1	\$3,126.28	\$2,000 still left to pay out for 3rd Zone Championship
	U.S. Bank Checking #2	\$665.00	
	U.S. Bank Savings Restricted Funds	\$2,191.32	\$4,515.00 transfered to checking to pay for Youth Scholarships in 3 Zone Championships
	U.S. Bank Money Market	\$142,535.40	\$8,000.00 of this is reserved for Int. Comm. 2024 Training Camp 1
	PayPal Bank	\$4,016.08	\$8,000.00 transfered form PayPal to Money Market for the IC Training Camp 1
	<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$152,534.08</b>	<b>As of November 4, 2023</b>

**OLD BUSINESS**

**CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW STRUCTURE TASK FORCE** – *Robin Bond, Kim Hillyer, Heather Humelbaugh, Chris Stanko, Amy Star; Bridgett Klingler (officially resigned 11/24/23)*

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**2 Options presented to BOD**

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**OPTION A Rationale:** In the 2024 USAWE membership’s Regional vs. Zone Championship Show survey results, a large percentage of members that participated indicated that they did not favor continuing with the recent change in shows from Regional to Zones and would like the decision to be reversed. Stated reasons to remove the Zone championships included increased travel distance to attend, and the increased cost to the member for such travel as well the geographical location may not be in a member’s registered region.

2024 will be a transition year to continue the Zone Championship as well as approve individual Regional Shows or Multi-Regional Shows, allowing regions to work together if attendance may be difficult for our less populated regions. This transition allows the organization to meet our members where they want to be met and all members the opportunity to participate in a variety of shows as they choose. In addition, from an organizational point of view it allows for approval by the Board of Directors (BOD) of those bids that have already been approved by the Championship Evaluation Committee per our Competitions Policies and Procedures, Competitions Manual and usawe.org website Championships page.

*No director moved; no second*

**Motion# 1a:** Announce, to the membership, the roll-out of the new Championship Show Structure. 2024 will be a transitional year for Championship Shows. There will be opportunities for Zone Championships as well as Regional or Multi-Regional Championship Shows through 2024 as the organization transitions into a new Championship Show Structure in 2025. Starting in 2025, there will be Regional or Multi-Regional Championship Shows and a National Championship Show.

→ **Motion failed**

~OR~



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**Option B Rationale:** In the 2024 membership survey, a large percentage of members that participated indicated that they did not favor continuing with the recent change in shows from Regional to Zones and would like the decision to be reversed. Stated reasons to remove the Zone championships included increased travel distance to attend, and the increased cost to the member for such travel as well the geographical location may not be in a members registered Region.

Allowing a new Championship system to take place in 2025 allows the organization the time needed to plan for success and from all angles to meet the needs of the membership. This time frame allows for a clean break from Zone Championships and grants show managers adequate time to build show bids for Regional Championship shows according to the bid process without feeling rushed or discouraged to participate. This also bypasses any harm to the already approved Zone Championships and the current system in place for qualifying which is under consideration for change starting in 2025.

*DOREEN ATKINSON, PRESIDENT ELECT, made a motion; LINDA FRAZIER, REGION 3 DIRECTOR, seconded*

**Motion# 1b:** Announce to the membership the roll-out of the Regional Championship Show structure now, for a 2025 start including Regional, Multi-Regional Championships, and a National Championship show. The 2024 Zone Championship Show structure will remain in effect as per our Competitions Manual and website for 2024.

→ **Motion passed by voice vote with 10 in favor, 2 opposed, 0 abstained, 0 recused, 1 absent.**

### **Motion #2**

#### **Current USA Working Equitation Rules regarding Championships**

*Zone championships can be held no more frequently than once per year per zone but are not required to be held every year. Zone championships may take place over two or more days.*

*Prize money may be awarded.*

*Horse-rider combinations may compete in any or all zone championships, regardless of where qualifying scores are achieved.*

*Horse-rider combinations must earn a combined average of 58% or higher in Dressage and EOH and successfully complete the Speed trial (L2-L7) at a minimum of two licensed shows to qualify for a zone championship.*

**Rationale:** Hosting Regional Championships in September allows the membership to participate country-wide with a lower risk of inclement weather for travel. Hosting a National Championship by mid-October allows a large majority of the membership to have time to plan for participation when inclement weather will be more of a factor.

*KRIS BLACKLOCK, SECRETARY, made a motion; DOREEN ATKINSON, PRESIDENT ELECT, seconded to table this motion and revisit after the task force refines Regional and Championships (starting in 2025) proposal for board consideration*

**Motion# 2:** The 2024 season will not dictate any timeline restrictions for when Zone or Regionals Championships are to be hosted. In 2025 (and following years), Regional Championship Shows will be held by September 30 and a National Championship Show will be held by mid-October every year unless changed by a Board of Directors (BOD) motion.

→ **Motion tabled by voice vote with 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, 0 recused, 1 absent.**

**Motion #3** An issue that has recently been brought up to the competitions committee that needs to be addressed.

**Rationale:** To ensure members do not have an advantage of potentially schooling prior to a Championship Show by being allowed to ride in a non-Championship show that used the same arena, obstacle and judges the day prior (or day of) a championship, consecutively run shows are not allowed. We do not want a perception of unfairness due to some championship competitors having the ability to show in the same arena with the same obstacles, and same judges the day or days right before the championship show.

Board discussed each competitor has the opportunity to compete in both licensed and/or championship shows. Arenas and obstacles are equally available. Don't want to limit show organizers in options. Also don't want to add additional judge expenses.

HEATHER HUMELBAUGH, REGION 1 DIRECTOR made a motion; CHRIS STANKO, PRESIDENT, seconded

**Motion# 3:** Regular licensed shows may be run during the Championship Shows, but they must run concurrently with the championship show and not consecutively.

→ **Motion failed by voice vote with 0 in favor, 12 opposed, 0 abstained, 0 recused, 1 absent.**

#### **Motion #4 – 2 Options presented to BOD**

**OPTION A Rationale:** Members will have an equal opportunity of 12 months in which to earn the necessary qualifying scores to participate in the Championships. Show organizers of the Championships will have adequate time to verify the number of qualified entries in order to hold the shows. This time frame takes into consideration weather conditions throughout the county limiting some members' ability to show as well as unforeseen circumstances such as the inability to hold shows based on human or equine infectious medical illnesses.

*No director moved; no second*

**Motion# 4a:** Change to the 2024 qualifying period for Championship Shows. Rescind the 11/21/2022 Board of Directors (BOD) approved motion "For competition year 2023, at least one of the scores must be earned during the current competition year. The qualifying period is January 1 of the previous competition year through the show entry deadline for the zone championship in the current year. Beginning in the competition year 2024, both scores must be earned during the current competition year." and replace with:

Beginning in the competition year 2024, the qualifying period for the Regional, Multi-Regional, and Zone Championship Shows for 2024 and future years will be **September 1st**, the year preceding the Championship Shows to **August 31st**, the year the championships are held. The horse/rider pairs must earn 2 scores from 2 different judges, and the scores must be 58% or higher. The qualifying score percentage will be reviewed each year and will be based on the national average.

→ **Motion failed**

~OR~

**OPTION B Rationale:** Members will have an equal opportunity of 12 months in which to earn the necessary qualifying scores to participate in the Championships. This gives members the opportunity to earn scores closer to the championship show date. Show organizers of the Championships will have adequate time to verify the number of qualified entries to hold the shows. Time frame takes into consideration weather conditions throughout the county limiting some members' ability to show as well as unforeseen circumstances such as the inability to hold shows based on human or equine infectious illnesses.

ROBIN BOND, AT-LARGE DIRECTOR 1, made a motion; CHRIS STANKO, PRESIDENT, seconded

**Motion# 4b:** Change to the 2024 qualifying period for Championship Shows. Rescind the 11/21/2022 Board of Directors (BOD) approved motion "For competition year 2023, at least one of the scores must be earned during the current competition year. The qualifying period is January 1 of the previous competition year through the show entry deadline for the zone championship in the current year. Beginning in the competition year 2024, both scores must be earned during the current competition year." and replace with:

At least one of the scores must be earned during the current competition year. Starting in 2024, the second score may be earned in the current competition year or may be carried over from the immediate previous competition year. Both scores must be earned within the specific performance level.

→ **Motion passed by voice vote with 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, 0 recused, 1 absent.**

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**Motion #5:**

**Rationale:** There should be a clear map that allows members to participate outside of their registered Region but not be seen as a threat to members in those non-home regions. Requiring members to have qualifying score in each region they wish to participate in the Championship shows puts the member on a level playing field when competing and allows a higher participation for shows that may be geographically closer to the member but falls outside of the registered Region.

*DOREEN ATKINSON, PRESIDENT ELECT, made a motion; HEATHER HUMELBAUGH, REGION 1 DIRECTOR, seconded*

**Motion# 5:** Starting in 2025 when Regional Championships will be held, qualified horse/rider pairs can only compete in the region's championships in which qualified scores are earned. Riders can show at any regional championship show outside their "home" region as long as they have earned qualifying scores in that region. Horse/rider pairs may show in multi-regional championship shows if they have earned qualifying scores in the multiple regions. That means if a rider wants to show in 2 different regional championship shows, they must earn 4 total qualifying scores. (2 from each region).

→ **Motion passed by voice vote with 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, 0 recused, 1 absent.**

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**Motion #6** - *Unsure this needs to be a motion since this is the current requirement in the rulebook and competitions manual, and would not change since we are already in the last stages of the rule change cycle.*

**THIS MOTION IS *NOT NEEDED AS THERE IS NO CHANGE TO CURRENT USA WORKING EQUITATION RULES OR COMPETITIONS MANUAL***

**Rationale:** This is as per the rules and the competitions manual. It is too late in the rules revision process to have this changed for 2024.

*No director moved; no second*

**Motion# 6:** A Championship Show judge panel requires a minimum of 2 judges: at least 1 "S" (L1-L7) and an "R" (L1-L7) if serving on a panel with one or more "S" Judges. WAVE judges will also be allowed to the panel.

→ **No action required**

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**Motion #7:**

**Rationale:** Current budget constraints do not allow for funds to be offered to any Regional Championships hosted in 2024. Funds have been allocated for Zone Championships to receive a \$2000 grant per Zone (Eastern, Central, Western; (\$2,000 x 3) equaling \$6000 total. Budgeting can be re-allocated for the 2025 show season, allowing \$1000 per region (Region 1 thru Region 7; \$1,000 x7) equally \$7000 which is a \$1000 increase over the 2024 Zone budget.

*AMIE PERRYMAN, REGION 6 DIRECTOR, made a motion; KIKI PANTAZE, R4 DIRECTOR, seconded*

**Motion# 7:** In 2024, Board of Directors (BOD) approved Zone Championships will continue to receive a USAWE \$2,000 grant as previously approved (per Competitions Policies and Procedures, Competition Manual and usawe.org website Championships page).

Starting in 2025, Board of Directors (BOD) approved Regional or Multi-Regional Championship Shows will receive \$1,000 grant money per region. If a multi-regional show is put on, then the show will get \$1,000 per region involved in the show (i.e., if 2 regions are putting it on, the multi-region show will receive a \$2,000 championship show grant).

→ **Motion passed by voice vote with 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, 0 recused, 1 absent.**

**Motion #8:**

**Rationale:** To ensure a range of members both board and committee, directly and indirectly connected to the proposal are involved, to review and present if more than one submission is received to the board the top 2 proposals, if only 1 submission is received, the Championship Evaluation Committee (CEC) has the authority to approve and inform the board of the decision.

*ROBIN BOND, AT-LARGE DIRECTOR 1, made a motion; STEPHANIE HAYES, AT-LARGE DIRECTOR 2, seconded*

**Motion# 8:** The Championship Evaluation Committee (CEC) for Regional or Multi-Regional Championships must be comprised of:

1. A competitions committee member not residing in that region(s)
2. One At-large Director
3. Regional Director(s) from the region(s) involved in the bid proposal

CEC will follow a bid proposal process. All proposals require board approval.

→ **Motion passed by voice vote with 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, 0 recused, 1 absent.**

**Motion #9:**

**Rationale:** The Regional Director (RD) role will be vital to keeping the Board of Directors (BOD) and Championship Evaluation Committee (CEC) informed of any challenges taking place with the championship show and to ensure the rules, requirements and expectations of the Board of Directors (BOD) for a successful show are met.

*DOREEN ATKINSON, PRESIDENT ELECT, made a motion; AMIE PERRYMAN, REGION 6 DIRECTOR, seconded*

**Motion# 9:** The Regional Director must serve on the Regional Championship Show Committee in their region in an advisory capacity after the show has been approved. This role is to act as a liaison between the regional members, show organizer and the Championship Evaluation Committee (CEC) to ensure that all parties, including the regional membership understand the process, show requirements, as well as show details.

→ **Motion passed by voice vote with 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, 0 recused, 1 absent.**

**CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW STRUCTURE TASK FORCE - APPOINTMENT** – *Kim Hillyer, Task Force Member*

**Rationale:** Re-appoint **Bridgett Klingler** (R1-OR) who resigned 11/24/23/23 from the Championship Show Structure Task Force. Bridgett reconsidered and wishes to remain on the task force.

*BECKY SHERVEN, REGION 5 DIRECTOR made a motion; ROBIN BOND, AT-LARGE DIRECTOR 1, seconded*

**Motion# 10:** Re-appoint **Bridgett Klingler** (R1-OR) to the Championship Show Structure Task Force, effective immediately.

**Roll Call Vote**

Director	Vote	Director	Vote
R1 Director – Heather Humelbaugh	Y	At Large Director 1 – Robin Bond	Y
R2 Director – Katie Franklin	N	At Large Director 2 – Stephanie Hayes	Y
R3 Director – Linda Frazier	Abstain	Treasurer – Leesa Nero	Absent
R4 Director – Kiki Pantaze	N	Secretary – Kris Blacklock	N
R5 Director – Becky Sherven	Y	President Elect – Doreen Atkinson	N
R6 Director – Amie	Y	President – Chris Stanko	Abstain
R7 Director – Rebecca Algar	Y		

→ **Motion failed by roll call vote.**

**COMPETITIONS: WESTERN ZONE CHAMPIONSHIP PROPOSAL** – Kim Hillyer, Competitions Chair

**Rationale:** Decision Western Zone Championship proposal submitted 8/14/2023 (after the 8/9/23 BOD approved motion to change to Regional/Multi-Regional/National Championship show structure). Proposal was reviewed by the Championship Evaluation Committee (Kim Hillyer, Katie Franklin and Heather Humelbaugh) on 10/10/23; Proposal sent 10/11/2023 for BOD review by Kim Hillyer. Motion did not pass 10/23/23 e-Vote.

*KIKI PANTAZE, R4 DIRECTOR made a motion; ROBIN BOND, AT-LARGE DIRECTOR 1 seconded*

**Motion# 11:** Approve the 2024 Western Zone Championship proposal submitted by the organizing committee headed by show manager Kristine Strasburger, to be held September 18 – 22, 2024 at the Oregon Horse Center in Eugene OR.

→ **Motion passed by voice vote with 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, 0 recused, 1 absent.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**COMMITTEE REQUESTS**

**COMPETITIONS - COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT** – Kim Hillyer, Chair

**Rationale:** Re-appoint **Mary Duffy** (R2-CA) who resigned 10/26/23 from the Competitions Committee. Mary reconsidered and will serve on the competitions committee as backup licensed show processor.

*DOREEN ATKINSON, PRESIDENT ELECT, made a motion; KATIE FRANKLIN, REGION 2 DIRECTOR, seconded*

**Motion# 12:** Re-appoint **Mary Duffy** (R2-CA) to the Competitions Committee, effective immediately.

→ **Motion passed by voice vote with 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, 0 recused, 1 absent.**

**ETHICS – REGIONAL DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT** – Per 2.5.1 Policies and Procedures

**Rationale:** Per Policies and Procedures 2.5.1 Committee Membership a. Ethics Committee, a current Regional Director needs to be appointed to the Ethics Committee. Replace Heather Humelbaugh R1 Director and appoint a regional director to the Ethics committee effective December 1<sup>st</sup>.

**2.5.1 Committee Membership a. Ethics Committee.** The Ethics Committee consists of committee chair, and four to eight members. One member will be a Regional Director. Recommendations for committee members can come from the Ethics Committee or the Board of Directors (BOD). Final approval of committee chair and members is made by the Board of Directors. The Committee membership cannot include a current Judge, TD, WE Coach, or member of the Executive Committee.

Current Ethics Committee is comprised of Dan Dahlke (R1-OR), Cindy Branham (R3-KS), Marcy Buffington (R4-TX), Glynn Hoekstra (R2-CA), Ali Kermeen (R2-CA), Adair Soho (R6-VA) and Region 1 Director Heather Humelbaugh (R1-OR).

Due to the 2023 Elections (*per 2.5.1 Policies and Procedures*), **Heather Humelbaugh**, R1 Director needs to be replaced by a Regional Director who is not a Judge, TD, WE Coach, or member of the Executive Committee.

Candidates eligible to fill this vacancy include: R1 Director **Sara Mackenzie** (WA), R4 Director **Kiki Pantaze** (TX), R5 Director **Sara Barnwell** (MI), R6 Director **Amie Perryman** (VA) or R7 Director **Pat Melton** (NC).

Regional Directors (RD) interested in serving on the Ethics Committee include: R1 Director **Sara Mackenzie** (WA) and R5 Director **Sara Barnwell** (MI) – need to vote **one** RD. Zoom Poll Vote held to determine appointee; Sara Mackenzie received majority votes (58%); Sara Barnwell (42%).

*REBECCA ALGAR, REGION 7 DIRECTOR made a motion; KIKI PANTAZE, R4 DIRECTOR seconded*

**Motion# 13:** Due to the 2023 Election Results and to be in compliance with USAWE Ethics Policies and Procedures, remove **Heather Humelbaugh**, Region 1 Director and appoint **Sara Mackenzie** (R1-WA), Director, as the Regional Director member of the Ethics Committee, effective December 1, 2023.

→ **Motion passed by voice vote with 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, 0 recused, 1 absent.**



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### **AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS** – *Kristine Strasburger, AO Coordinator & Terri O’Neal, Financial Oversight Chair*

Discussed Financial Oversight Committee Chair’s 11/7/23 research results of 58 Affiliate Organizations, Secretary’s AO setup questions, AO Coordinator’s letter drafted for AOs to verify business entity, AO January meeting will focus on clarifying AO business entities, sole proprietorship AOs, nonprofit status for AOs, etc., and AO Coordinator’s recommendation that a task force be created to review the entire affiliate organization program, provide an analysis and offer suggestions for a revamped AO program moving forward.

It is vitally important that adequate time be given to the development of a better affiliate organization program, so the target goal would be to have a new program ready to be adopted by the end of the third quarter of 2024, alongside the other bylaws changes. In the meantime, the existing AO program to stay in place with communication that a task force will be appointed to develop a new program that includes a transparent process coupled with good communication with our members and existing AOs is going to be essential in the changing of one of our core programs.

### **RULES – 2024 V7 UNITED STATES RULES FOR WORKING EQUITATION** – *Jeanne Bond, Chair; Rules Committee members: Glynnna Hoekstra, Leslie Martien, Barbara Price and Amy Star*

**Rationale:** On 11.16.2022, the BOD received United States Rules for Working Equitation Rev 7 for review. There were 149 change proposals to deal with this time around, the largest number so far. The good news, however, is that most were relatively minor corrections, clarifications, and adjustments. A number of them weren't really applicable to the rulebook, but rather belonged to Competitions, Awards, Youth, or the LOC -- those were directed accordingly. There were a number of very productive meetings between the various committees during this revision cycle -- the end product is always so much better as a result of this collaboration.

The Rules team would like to publicly acknowledge the excellent contribution of the Technical Review team: **Robin Bond, Tracey Erway, and Lidia Taylor**. Their careful read through the documents unearthed some very good questions and suggestions that significantly improved the final product. We are grateful for their input.

BOD reviewed only portions of the rulebook affected by revisions with a response deadline of 11/22/23. Rules contain a summary of changes, as well as a new summary of deletions to easily see what was removed (most notably the non-WAWE obstacles). BOD received a final version of the 2024 Rules on 11/27/2023.

President Chris Stanko asked Jeanne Bond, Rules Committee Chair to ensure 2.14.8 Authorizations > Rules Policies and Procedures include Rules revisions require Board of Directors approval (prior to disbursement effective date).

*REBECCA ALGAR, REGION 7 DIRECTOR made a motion; ROBIN BOND, AT-LARGE DIRECTOR 1 seconded*

**Motion# 14:** Approve Version 7 of the United States Rules for Working Equitation.

→ **Motion passed by voice vote with 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, 0 recused, 1 absent.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Email – Committee Chairs** - *Kris Blacklock, Secretary*

Please use your corporate email account and the corporate distribution lists when communicating to officers and directors, Executive Committee, full Board of Directors and Regional Directors. Check your ‘Contacts’ and remove obsolete and/or incorrect email addresses for these positions. An updated **BOD - Committee Chairs - Key Contacts** list and revised updated **USAWE eMail, Contacts, G-Drive Access** guide will be sent following the meeting (effective 12.01.2023).

**Note:** Effective December 1<sup>st</sup>, the President and President Elect email addresses have **changed** to: [President@usawe.org](mailto:President@usawe.org) and [President-Elect@usawe.org](mailto:President-Elect@usawe.org) An email change is in process for the Professional Development Committee (fka Coaches Network) and will be announced as soon as new email account is setup.

**ITEMS TO CONSIDER FOR NEXT MEETING** - None

**President Chis Stanko adjourned the meeting at 7:15 PM, Pacific Time.**

Minutes submitted by Kris Blacklock, USAWE Secretary