

**WPRA Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Teleconference Call**  
**2/5/2019**

**In Attendance:** Doreen Wintermute, Jerri Mann, Heidi Schmidt, Margo Ransom, Dillon McPherson, Melanie Luark, Patti McCutchen, Cindy Gillespie, Eileen Lang-Kramme, Chris Powers, Patti Roberts, Toni Karre, Marlene McRae, Stacey Freitas, Lois Ferguson and Julie Herman. Dana Eismeier and Janet Cropper.

**1. WPRA President, Doreen Wintermute calls the meeting to order.**

**2. Review of the 2019 RNCFR Ground Rules:** WPRA President, Doreen Wintermute highlighted for the Board that there were no substantive changes from the 2018 GRs other than including the following language: "There will be no preparation, re-work or raking during the rodeo." Ms. Wintermute explained that this is how it has been handled at the rodeo and that now the committee is adding the language into the GRs. The Board had a lengthy discussion about this specific language. Ms. Wintermute was asked to go back to the committee and try to get the language changed.

**3. Review of the Grand Island, NE Rodeo Application and Format:** Prairie Circuit Director shared with the Board that Grand Island was a new rodeo in 2018. In 2019, the committee/stock contractor would like to see a format that reflects 1 round, with 20 progressing into the performances. It would have \$4,500 in added money and payout an average. The other option is 1 round with \$3,500 as a straight pay. The Prairie Director sought input from her members. The majority voted for 1 round at \$3,500.

The Board had a lengthy discussion.

**Motion by Futurity/Derby Director, Marlene McRae:** I move that the Board accept the Prairie Circuit Director's recommendation to approve a format of 1 round at \$3,500.

**2<sup>nd</sup> by Wilderness Circuit Director, Julie Herman.**

15 Yes votes/0 No votes.

**Motion passes.**

**4. Request for Approval of the Calgary 2019 Ground Rules and the WPRA/Calgary Agreement:** In the 2019 GRs, Calgary would like to replace the old language regarding hand raking after each contestant, with new language that allows them to drag after the 5<sup>th</sup> run of the BR (as conditions allow) on days 1-8 and after the 6<sup>th</sup> run on day 9. With this change, they have offered two options for rotating the "run order", so there is even opportunity given the drag in the middle. In addition, they also are suggesting that on day 10 anyone not making it to the showdown, receive \$3,300 and that it count toward World Standings.

The Board took a poll regarding the 2 options offered by Calgary regarding rotating the "run order".

**Motion by Prairie Circuit Director, Cindy Gillespie:** I move that the Board accept the 2019 Calgary GRs as submitted using option B to reflect the "run order" and that the \$3,300 being paid out to those competing on day 10 who do not make it to the showdown count toward World Standings.

**2<sup>nd</sup> by Great Lakes Circuit Director, Margo Ransom**

11 Yes votes/3 No votes/1 Abstaining.

**Motion passes.**

Regarding the 2019 WPRA/Calgary Agreement, the correct agreement did not make it out to the Board. They will handle it at their next meeting.

**5. Review of the Date for the 2019 Spring Board Meeting:** WPRA President, Doreen Wintermute said that the best date (allowing for the 2019 election process) is March 29, 30 & 31, 2019 in Colorado Springs at The Antlers Hotel.

**6. Review of the EM & PS Test Results for 2018:** WPRA Chief Operating Officer, Janet Cropper provided the Board with a final summary for 2018. Locations, number of tests conducted and type of any positives was provided to Directors. Due to pending hearings, Directors can share a verbal summary of the year's activity, but were requested to not share details.

**7. Review of 2019-2021 World Finals Venue Recommendation:** WPRA Chief Operating Officer explained the Request for Proposal (RFP) process that the World Finals Committee went through to find an appropriate venue. RFPs were sent to 19 venues across the country. Only three (3) chose to respond based on their ability to meet the event's needs. The Board discussed whether having 1 World Finals or having 2-3 regional events across the country might make better sense for the WPRA membership.

**Motion by Great Lakes Circuit Director, Margo Ransom:** I move that the Board accept the World Finals Committee's recommendation to renew their contract for Extraco Event Center, Waco TX.

**2<sup>nd</sup> by Wilderness Circuit Director, Julie Herman.**

7 Yes votes/7 No votes.

**Motion fails.**

The World Finals Committee was told to go back to committee and see if there is another approach to consider.

## **8. Committee Updates:**

**Review of Divisional Circuit Committee Activity:** Divisional Circuit Committee Chair, Lois Ferguson recapped the following topics that her committee has discussed- 1) high entry fee, low added money jackpots (no change in policy- leave this at Director's discretion), 2) regarding the use of "nonmember" fees at some jackpots (no change in policy- leave this at the Director's discretion) and 3) one Director's request that DC awards budgets be increased (this was redirected over to the Business Committee for their review). The DC Committee was asked if they are reviewing requests for Guaranteed Payout jackpots. Ms. Ferguson said that is on the agenda for their next DC Committee meeting.

**Review of Roping Committee Activity:** Roping Committee Chair, Patti McCutchen recapped the following topics - 1) content from the 11/6/2018 minutes, 2) that success in the Wilderness Circuit is largely due to the efforts of Codi Ann Judkins who has put on several Breakaway events and generated many new Wilderness Roping members and 3) Ms. McCutchen needs the Board to set the 2019 Roping cutoff date. She is recommending 9/3/2019.

**Motion by Great Lakes Circuit Director, Margo Ransom:** I move that the Board accept the recommended 2019 Roping cutoff date to be 9/3/2019.

**2<sup>nd</sup> by Prairie Circuit Director, Cindy Gillespie**

13 Yes votes/0 No votes

**Motion passes.**

There was subsequent discussion about plans to expand the breakaway pilot at 2019 professional rodeos. It was explained that the plan is to expand the pilot, but not to go to a full rollout until Procom is ready to take entries. To handle the expanded pilot, the WPRA office found an outside provider that can take entries. The

WPRA office must then take on being the coordination point between the entry system, secretaries, judges, timers and stock contractors in addition to processing results and paying out the rodeo.

Directors asked Ms. McCutchen to outline a detailed plan of all activities that need to be completed for this expansion to be successful. In addition, they had questions regarding updates that may be needed in the rule book for 2019 and 2020.

**Review of the PESI Committee Activity:** PESI Committee chair, Julie Herman recapped the following from her committee- 1) Success against two (2) main goals for ending 2018 and starting 2019- introducing a PESI stallion service auction and increasing the number of stallions in our program; 2) stallions went up from a low in 2018 with 27 stallions participating in PESI to minimally 61 at the end of January 2019 and 3) Circuit Directors are being asked to complete their rodeo request which identifies which rodeo in their circuit will payout PESI bonus money in 2019.

**9. Request by Futurity/Derby Director regarding Distribution of Sponsor SidePot Money for this Program:** Futurity/Derby Director, Marlene McRae asked that the Sponsor SidePot Money be allocated as follows- random draw 6 Circuits to receive the Sponsor SidePot money for a Futurity/Derby event in 2019 and then rotate to the other 6 Circuits for 2020. Follow the rotation each year. She also requested \$500 to the World Finals one year and Futurity the next.

**Motion by Futurity/Derby Director, Marlene McRae:** I move that the Board do the following: random draw 6 Circuits to receive the Sponsor SidePot money for a Futurity/Derby event in 2019 and then rotate to the other 6 Circuits for 2020. Follow the rotation each year. Also allocate \$500 to the World Finals one year and Futurity the next.

**2<sup>nd</sup> by Wilderness Circuit Director, Julie Herman**

14 Yes votes/0 No votes

**Motion passes.**

**10. Conclusion:** Ms. Wintermute recapped the following items for the next call: World Finals recommendation, 2019-2020 Calgary Agreement, RNCFR Ground Rules, etc.

**Meeting adjourned.**