

June Bd Discussions (1)

June Board Discussions

(Barbara sent an email to the Board May 30):

OK, it's almost June 1st and not that much is changed. **The question is:** Do we resume "business as usual" - meaning going on with our scheduled shows and clinics - or close down for the summer?

Even though our state is one of the lowest in COVID-19 cases and deaths - it is not virus free. People going out and about is going to spread this pandemic. The governor can open and close businesses/venues but the virus is still here. It will be here until everyone can be vaccinated or become immune through contracting the disease.

Although in our sport it is comparatively easy to maintain "social distance", it is not without danger. Our office staff and volunteers would be the most vulnerable. The judge and scribe must sit shoulder to shoulder and the scorers are in a confined space. Most dangerous of all is people can transmit the virus before they know they have it!

Here is the answers:

From Winnie May 30: "I think we need to wait and see if facilities reopen and if they are willing to host outside shows. We also need to check with judges about whether or not they are willing to drive rather than fly.

"I'm not sure if we have enough information from our scheduled facilities/judges/riders to make a really informed decision at this time.

"Perhaps a little phone/email research is in order before we decide what to do about the rest of the season."

From Valerie May 30: "I feel we should seek out some alternative venues BEFORE September. It has been said time and time again that the risk outdoor transmission is VERY REMOTE. It may be far more detrimental to the future health of the club to cancel opportunities if we can make them happen."

From Sarah Jun 01: "I vote NO to cancelling the proposed events.

"I know it is challenging to schedule events when we don't know whether the venue will be open, or if an out-of-state judge can travel to New Mexico, along with the risk of being in close contact with others. However, given the guidance from USEF and USDF and in compliance with local restrictions, I think it may be possible to hold events beginning in July. That doesn't mean that high risk individuals should participate at that time. We can also develop practices and procedures to protect people who choose to participate.

"The virus is not going away nor will there be a vaccine for some months (years?). We should try to figure out how to move forward in a COVID positive world. What part of the organizing and communication can be done electronically, virtually, without contact? Can we get a local Judge? Can judge and scribe use headset to communicate while sitting apart? Can we borrow or buy headset? Can scoring be done electronically and hard copy of test be mailed to rider? Can we provide additional hand washing/sanitizing stations?

"If by mid June it appears that EXPO NM will be closed through July, could we then move the "June" schooling show to July at CTF? Or move the "June" show to early November? If Vista Sandia is opened within the next month or so, can we have the August show there?

"I'm not ready to cancel the summer. I would like to continue to evaluate the situation on a week-by-week basis."

From Maribeth Jun 01: "I agree with Sarah and vote no to cancelling the season.

"I think we can move things around and do what we can. It's ok to figure out as we go. If Nathalie can't get here for the ride a test I may have to use someone else, I'll find out who would qualify for the grant, which we can still use.

"I think anyone that doesn't want to be in a crowd won't come. And that's fine."

From John – telecon June 2nd: "Decide on a case by case basis, decide month by month."

From Susan Jun 05: "Like most others, I think shows should be cautiously postponed, but planned on a case-by-case basis. Most of the riders I know aren't chasing end-of-year awards. They just want the show experience, and the feedback from the judge. Me, too. NM is doing pretty well in "flattening the curve", but we must not think this is all over with."

So here we go! I want the **managers** of the various events to coordinate with their judges and venues and try to make these events happen. Because the Governor's "rules" keep evolving – be sure to check with the latest. Here are the Governor's rules that apply to us as of June 1st:

* No gatherings of more than 5 people. (If we use sufficient venues, there should be sufficient room for not more than 5 people in one place.)

* Social distance 6 feet. (This is easy with horses.)

* Everyone should wear a mask or face covering when in public spaces.

Exceptions: eating, drinking, exercising.

* 14 day quarantine out-of-state airport arrivals. Exception (as of June 1) "For business" travel. [Note: **Out-of-state judges** must also abide by their state's "rules."]

* As of April 30 the following was opened: State parks, golf courses, pet services. As of May 30 the following are opened with limited capacity: Businesses that sell

goods and churches at 25 %. As of June 1st: restaurants, gyms,, indoor Malls are open with 50 % capacity. **Sports:** non-contact sports only.

* "Non essential" businesses: movies, concert halls, amusement parks, remain closed.

* The Governor still wants people to remain at home except when you must go out. (New Mexico "rules" can be researched at www.cv.nmhealth.org).

The following is from the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) "Guidelines for Resuming Competitions":

* Local government "rules" will always prevail.

* Only essential persons at events, no spectators. It is suggested that only 3 people per horse: (rider, groom, trainer) be allowed on grounds.

* Face masks required based on local ordinance while unmounted. The venue makes this call. Anyone violating mask rule must leave.

* Provide sanitizer stations.

* Limit access to office, judge and scribe.

* Schedule ride times and schooling times to minimize time on grounds.

(More Guidelines can be viewed at www.usef.org.)

Here are the NMDA events on the calendar:

July 18, Ride A-test at Expo. Manager: Maribeth St. Cyr, Judge: Nathalie Eikel-Baughman. 1) Venue: Expo is closed, at least for now (State Fair IS NOT on their calendar! - Our NMDA event is not on the Expo calendar either. See www.ExpoNewMexico.com) - BFRA has a PA system and bleachers, but is closed - CTF has a PA system but may or may not be available in July. 2) There is a restriction on flying, the judge will probably have to drive from AZ. Crossing state lines is discouraged. 3) Spectators are discouraged by USEF and limited by NM governor. (Cindy canceled the Rachel Saavedra clinic because the pot luck and lectures would be very limited.)

August 16 Trinity Ranch SS. Manager: Julie Wilson & Winnie Fitch. Judge: Cynthia Ganem. This show is USDF & WDAA recognized, recognition depends on the qualifications of the judge. Trinity R. is a large boarding facility, it may be hard to practice "social distance" - that is if they will even host the show. Additionally there is a VSV possibility, Trinity canceled last year because VSV was nearby. Also an out-of-state judge is scheduled (see above).

Sept 11-14 Pilates clinic. Manager: Cindy Kavan-Winfield. Venue: CTF. Clinician: Janice Dulak

Sept 19 Vista Sandia SS. Manager: Barbara Burkhardt. Venue: Vista Sandia. V.S. is County owned and is closed to groups (at this time). Judge: TBA. This show is supposed to be USDF recognized. It may not be possible to get a USDF qualified judge.

Oct 17 SS at Cherry Tree Farm. Manager: Winnie Fitch & DJ Collins. Venue: CTF. Judge: Sharron Sarchet (out of state). This show is USDF & WDAA recognized (recognition depends on judge).

If there are any changes to dates, venue or judge or recognition – let me know so I can keep the calendar up to date.

Barbara

From Winnie June 10:

“Even though we can’t hold meetings I thought I would send you a report on our finances.

Checking account: \$12772.85. Our liability insurance has been paid in the amount of \$1014.00 but if we have to cancel events we might get a refund on some of this.

CD: \$6115.72

Education: \$4543.75

We are solvent even if we aren’t very active right now.

Winnie