Executive Board conference call, June 9, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. Roll was taken.

Present were TJ Shippy, Nora Lee, Jessica Lancaster, Bob Byrd, Chris Christian, Darrell Moser and Scarlett Buchanan.

Sage Hiibel was in attendance as well.

Absent was Ron Unger.

TJ thanked everyone for getting on the call. He asked Sage if he can visit with us about the bylaw changes. He talked about having 3 directors per committee and if that is really needed. He also asked if there is something called a sub committee like he had with running the cutting and reining. He asked Kathy to talk about how that came about.

Kathy said that TJ and his son Tucker came to an eboard meeting with a proposal to help with the cutting and reining at state finals in order to have more consistency and getting better judges for the kids. There wasn’t really a committee, just his offer to help get all that together.

Sage said there was no standing committee for the cutting and reining.

Jessica thinks 3 directors wouldn’t be necessary. Maybe 1 director and an eboard member per committee. These committees need someone who cares about what they are doing for that committee. She asked Sage what board he was talking about…like the student board, secretary and treasurer and asked if that was for all committees.

Sage explained that these were just suggestions to not have any problems.

Nora felt that there needed to be 1 director and 1 eboard member per committee.

Bob thinks there should be a minimum of 3 members per committee.

TJ said for his committee, he has 2 outside people to help. His father-in-law helped in getting qualified judges and that was all he did. Others helped in getting cattle, etc.

Sage said we probably don’t need a grand entry or nominating committee. He thinks the eboard should be responsible for getting the facility and thinks there should be a state finals committee with other members than the eboard. He says that TJ is automatically on all committees as the President. He doesn’t feel like we need an eboard member for all committees.

Jessica talked about some committees, like the eligibility committee and having to be careful with sharing information as it is confidential.

TJ thinks that the Treasurer should be on all committees that have to do with money.

Chris agreed

TJ asked Sage if he needed anything from the eboard.

Sage said he felt there should be 3 members, not necessarily eboard, on every committee. Eboard members would be to assist with no vote or help oversee the committee they are on.

Bob feels we don’t need 3 board members per committee. Need some freedom on certain committees.

TJ thinks we can work together to present the bylaws. Thinks we all have a good idea, but need to be sure what is written is what is needed.

Sage said no problem, but needs 30 days to send out before our fall meeting.

Jessica talked about the schedule and the eboard can adjust it without the full board if needed.

Sage thinks the eboard could change what’s written, but doesn’t think it needs to be the eboard only.

Jessica asked that the language include the club directors in any date change for input.

Sage talked about clubs being on the list that have no rodeo or kids. Should we put in there something about “in good standings” and what does that actually look like.

He also talked about the conflict-of-interest policy with paid employees. He says that anyone that get reimbursed for anything is considered a paid employee. He asked Laurel who jumped on the call about paid employees and if they had voting rights. He asked if there were other ways to reimburse without making them paid employees. Wants to make sure we are not in violation of any IRS laws.

Laurel needs to time look into that.

TJ said we need to follow our conflict-of-interest policy and do it right.

Kathy agreed that we need to be following the policy.

Sage talked about ground rules and that there needs to be a document that’s posted on the website and at the rodeo and we need to decide what those are. There are things that have come up, but are not in the rule book.

Bob said some of the ground rules that come from Nationals are not in the rule book yet, but the kids will se them when they go to nationals.

Sage will re-word some of the points we talked about.

TJ asked Sage to send out to all the board to review so we can vote on them at the fall meeting.

TJ asked about any problems at state. We need to update the help sheet. Found some spots that needed to be filled. The eboard needs to look over the list and add what we want.

Bob says that some people need to be told what they need to do when they don’t show up anywhere.

Jessica said there were some missing parts for goats on gates and some others.

Kathy will send the help list to the board for updating.

TJ asked where the 7 drags for poles came from.

Chris said it’s usually the arena director and the judges that decide that. It depends on the ground and the number of contestants.

Jessica said it’s usually every 5.

Board needs to decide if we need to require every 5 not 7.

It was talked about whether you can tell a club what that would be.

TJ feels each club needs to decide, but at state, it should be every 5.

Bob said he wanted to attend the meeting with Greg, but was not able to as he was in the cutting pen.

TJ said we need to address jobs and be on point for all.

Bob said the awards for the rifle, cutting and reining should be with the 1st go because for some, that’s all they do.

Discussion followed.

TJ was asked about the weight of the goats and who was in charge of the quality control.

The judges are supposed to be the livestock inspection committee and maybe the arena director should be as well.

Jessica agreed it’s up to the judges and the arena director.

Bob says the national office has a committee that looks at all the stock.

TJ asked Chris if he looks at any of the stock when he is the arena director.

Chris said no he doesn’t.

Darrell asked how you know what the weight is on goats.

Discussion followed about having someone check that. Might need to do that to keep contractors accountable. Maybe at all the rodeos.

Discussion followed about arena director training and do we need to help train.

It was asked about the stock contract for the contractor and who signed it.

Kathy asked Shawn if he wanted to sign it and he told her to do it. She said she had sent it out for review.

Nora said she didn’t get it.

TJ asked what was changed.

Kathy will send it to him.

Scarlett talked to the upcoming student board. They would like the prize budget increased so they can get better prizes for all the kids including the shooters. Not sure how that works.

Nora suggested the student board get together and see what prizes they wanted and to reach out to her to see what she could get. She said Chad Bliss would like to be involved.

Scarlett talked about having dances at the rodeos during the year. She would like to see more activities at each rodeo. Maybe have some goat roping for fund raisers. Maybe some games. Like to see kids have more fun.

Jessica said her boys put one on and had a program that made it easy.

Chris talked about setting up and tearing down the arena and having it at a different time.

Discussion followed on the state schedule.

Bob said Cooper, the tractor driver, said he needed more time to prep the arena.

Jessica suggested pushing the time up 1 hour for prep.

TJ talked about the stock for rough stock and had some problems. He has talked to Trent Whitaker to come talk about that at the August meeting. Some of the stock that was brought to state hadn’t been use in 2 years and that is not good. Some of our kids got hurt because of the stock.

Bob said his kids didn’t want 7C buckers at their rodeo because of some of their stock. He had Bill Clark do their rodeo. He agrees that they should be able to compete without getting beat up.

Nora said the same thing happened with the chute dogging. Some of the steers were too strong.

TJ talked with some other stock contractors about some of their issues. He feels we need to have separate bids for rough stock and timed event stock. He thinks we can do better for our kids.

Nora said we need to do the best job we can.

TJ asked Scarlett what she wanted to see and what she heard.

Scarlett said she heard that the breakaway, goat tying and team roping were good and the chute dogging was a little wild. She asked if the kids got the opportunity to throw down the steers for both chute dogging and steer wrestling.

TJ talked with a cousin of his that has rough stock. Most all rough stock comes with notes that you can look at. Need to make it better and focus on the kids, not the cost.

There were no additional items to discuss so meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.