



United States Mondio Ring Association Board of Directors Meeting Minutes June 18, 2018

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Don Lee at 2016 (or 8:16 P.M. CST). A quorum was present.

Members Present:

President	Donald Lee	Director	Gail Marit
Vice President	Allison Seghetti-Kehoe	Director	Todd Dunlap - absent
Secretary	Michon Mills	Director	Karen Shivers
Treasurer	David Broderick		

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – May

- May minutes will be approved via Facebook

Officer Reports

President – Don reminded the BOD that board meeting discussion confidentiality is very important and should be adhered to.

Vice President – Allison discussed her attendance at the Synergy Texas trial. She commented on how great it was to see all the new members learning, volunteering and participating in the trial. Allison discussed the possibility of having a monthly blog post for the USMRA members.

Treasurer – David reported the following: Wells Fargo – \$28,018.06 PayPal \$11,974.91
Total: \$39,992.97

David has been trying to figure out why French Ring is getting so many entries for their trials and Mondioring is not getting the same numbers of entries. There was discussion that the lower level FR trials are easier than the lower level Mondioring trials. USMRA would like to see the number increase for trial entries.

There was extensive discussion about the inconsistency of trials from club to club, judge to judge. There was further discussion about allowing dogs to practice retrieve items prior to the trial and know what the send away is, at level one. It was discussed that level one trials should be about making the team successful and getting people into the sport instead of trying to make them fail. By level two and three, the teams should have more training and be able to accomplish the tasks without practice or knowledge of the exercises.

Secretary – Michon reported the following: 2018 YTD numbers: 240 members and 25 clubs

Director at Large – None

Committee Reports

Judge's Committee –

The Judges Committee will be discussing the rule about dropping down a level when competing if they don't pass at the upper level they are attempting. Brevet may need to be different criterion as it is not an International title.

There was further discussion that per the International Rules of Mondioring, Level 3 is the only level that a dog can drop down to a level 2 as long as the dog has not achieved a score of 300 at level 3. Level 2 is not allowed to drop to level 1 if they do not pass at level 2. This was confirmed by Valeer.

There was discussion that the Judges Committee needs to discuss consistency with the rules and set up of trials for each level.

Decoy Committee –

- The Decoy Committee has voted to demote a decoy to a level two decoy from his current level three status due to safety concerns for the competing dogs and lack of physical conditioning required for a level three decoy. The Chair of the Decoy Committee will notify the decoy of the Decoy Committee's decision.
- Discuss suggestion for Level Three Certification.

The BOD recommends to the Decoy Committee that a level three certification be discussed and implemented for the US and USMRA decoys are not required to go to the Super Selection for certification. There was also discussion about the Decoy Committee approving the level three status of decoys that do participate in the Super Selection instead of the status being approved just because the decoy participated in the Super Selection. There was discussion that just attending the Super Selection should not be the only criteria to become a level 3 decoy for USMRA. There should be level three criteria that the decoy meets prior to attending the Super Selection. It was further discussed that the USMRA Decoy Committee needs to have oversight and approve every decoy that is appointed decoy status at any level.

Membership Committee –

- Membership Grant status –

The Membership Committee is working on the Membership Grant criteria. Karen stated that some of the committee members have not been participating in discussions. It was discussed that maybe some members need to be changed to find members that would like to participate and be active in committee discussions.

➤ **OB/OBJ Program**

Karen is working on modifications to the OB/OBJ program and looking at options for a Championship program.

There was discussion about whether lower levels are required prior to attempting the higher level OB/OBJ programs. Currently there is no requirement to complete the lower levels prior to attempting the higher levels.

➤ **Discuss whether individuals can nominate a person for Sportsman of the Year as in years prior it has only been allowed by a Club**

It was discussed that currently clubs vote on the Sportsman of the Year to prevent a popularity contest, so that votes are limited to the number of clubs for each nomination.

AWDF Update – ADWF filed charges against UScA for un-sportsman like behavior and going against the AWDF rules of being a supportive member.

Don will email the National Charges memo to the BOD.

Nationals Committee –

Reported by Jake Scott:

Three clubs have submitted to co-host nationals on the west coast, Marvel K9, Santa Clarita and Nor-Cal Mondioring.

FCI Committee – No Report

International Committee –

➤ **World Team Declarations**

The declaration applications have been prepared on JotForm and will be made available.

World Team Preparations, Requirements to attend - Don will contact Todd to see what the status is for information for the competitors wanting to attend.

Unfinished Business

➤ **Bylaw changes for defining members pertaining to National Championship placement and non-US resident members – tabled**

Evaluate the Status of USMRA Clubs

– Discuss/motion for approval of new clubs

Bite-Club Mondio

It was moved by Gail, second by Karen to approve USMRA club status to Bite-Club Mondio. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

- Discussion about discrepancies of Nationals original score sheets and mailed versions to members –

Michon will be reviewing the new scoresheets that she received today as they are the Spanish version originals. She will provide a report to the BOD once this is completed. There were hand written Spanish versions, a first electronic version and a final version with some hand written changes. There are numerous members that are upset that it took 6 weeks to get their final scoresheets in the mail, with some of their sheets not matching the ones they were shown at Nationals. Gail reported that some changes were made because the electronic sheets were not calculating ½ points, which could have been caused by a rounding error in excel.

- Discuss rules for members dropping down a level after attempting a higher level and not passing

The following was discussed because a member attempted a level one, did not pass and was allowed to drop to a brevet the next day. Valeer Linclau has informed us that level three is the only level that the rules allow someone to drop down, only to a level two as long as the team had not achieved a 300 score at level three. There was also a member that has trialed at level three in French Ring and wanted to complete a level two in Mondioring. The rules do not allow this but the USMRA judge felt that this should also be allowed.

Discussed that at the Santa Clarita Trial the USMRA judge did not require the dogs to do three position changes as required by the International Rules of Mondioring. The judge included the initial placement as one of the three positions changes.

These concerns will be sent to the Judges Committee for discussion. It was discussed that it is very important for all USMRA judges to be consistent and follow the International Rules of Mondioring.

There was extensive discussion about continued training being required for all USMRA judges with a requirement to attend every two years. Discussion included monetary reimbursement for the judges to attend a Judge's College. It was suggested to reimburse \$500.00 per judge to attend at least once every two years.

- Discuss adding OB/OBJ to the 2019 National Championship

Discussed getting the OBJ program in place before hosting a National Championship. Hosting OB/OBJ would require a separate field, an extra USMRA Judges, field help and extra time.

- Discuss requirement of medical releases for members that have active insurance claim with USMRA from injury at a sanctioned event in order to participate in a sanctioned USMRA event.

It was moved by Michon, second by Gail to require a physician's medical release prior to participating in a USMRA sanctioned event if the injured member has a filed insurance claim with USMRA. If an injured member does not provide USMRA with a medical

release, the member will not be allowed to participate in any USMRA sanctioned events until such release is presented to USMRA. Once a release is obtained, there will be no further claims submitted to the insurance company for that injury. The motion carried unanimously.

➤ Discussion on how to handle member complaints

There was discussion about the importance of transparency and notifying the membership of member complaints. There was a member that accused the BOD of improper disbursement of funds, but then stated it wasn't a formal complaint, just a concern that needed to be looked into. The complaint/concern was determined to not be factual as the BOD followed all proper rules to disperse funds to USMRA clubs for their assistance with the National Championship in 2017. The complaint was taken very seriously as the member was accusing the BOD of committing a crime.

There was discussion about changing the verbiage of the Bylaws regarding the Audit Committee. Allison discussed that audits of the organization should not be conducted internally but be done by an outside auditing source unless the Auditing Committee members consist of tax attorneys or CPA's with experience in auditing a non-profit organization. Using an outside firm eliminates any bias and conflict of interest.

➤ Discuss dual clubs hosting a trial

It was discussed that for club trials, each day is considered one trial. For a club to get credit for hosting a trial, it will be one club hosting per day. If it is a one-day trial, two clubs cannot get hosting credit.

Facebook Business – documentation purposes

- June 11, 2018 - It was moved by Michon, second by Allison to approve a payment of \$1001.98 to Carlos Aguirre to pay for the new USMRA decoy scorebooks. The motion carried unanimously.

Member's Concerns – Any concerns that USMRA Members may have

- Are USMRA Judges supposed to be completely impartial or should they be encouraged to make a living from a business directly related to judging a USMRA trial

USMRA judges are expected to be impartial. There is no issue with the USMRA judges interacting on Facebook and giving their opinions or advise.

- Is a non-member of a committee allowed to speak on behalf of the committee when the actual members of the committee are present?

Don explained that he had asked the member to speak at the General Meeting because the member had attended the International Committee meeting and had the knowledge to speak about the topics.

- What is Ann Putegnat's official role in organizing the USMRA World Team for the World Championship?

Ann is not an official member of organizing the USMRA World Team but does have a lot of knowledge and experience for advice. She attended the FCI meeting and has information provided from that.

- Is it a conflict of interest to have a same member on the auditing committee as another committee which makes money for his own club?

It was discussed that this is not a conflict of interest.

There was further discussion that it would be beneficial to future clubs if clubs hosting nationals would provide their financials for hosting Nationals so that it would help prepare other clubs for what to expect regarding cost and profit. West Penn declined to share their financials for 2018 Nationals with USMRA.

- Can the World Team Criteria be revisited to make Nationals more of a factor in selecting the World Championship Team?

This can be revisited and modified at the discretion of the Membership.

- Was DKA-tv paid for their live stream of the USMRA National Championship and why were they set up so far away from the obedience exercises?

This was a volunteer position and DKA-tv was not paid.

- Can a judge postpone accepting an invitation for a trial bid from a club due to the regulations changing, which will soon allow a judge to be paid for their time at the trial? This recently occurred and then the judge restricted communication with the club by blocking their point of contact. Can a USMRA judge "block" a club from communicating with them?

Don discussed that the majority of European judges get paid to put on a trial and this was discussed at a Judges committee meeting. Judges are permitted to decline a request.

There is no requirement for a Judge to maintain contact with members.

Announcements

Next Regular BOD Meeting – July 16, 2018 at 8:00 PM Central Time

Adjournment

It was moved by Michon, second by Allison to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 0014 hours (12:14 A.M. CST)

Michon M. Mills
USMRA Secretary

**Approved (Approved as Corrected)
BOD approval**

Michon M. Mills
USMRA Secretary
October 15, 2018