



April 3, 2024

Mr. David Beck
President & CEO
Kentucky Venues
P.O. Box 37130
Louisville, Kentucky 40233-7130

SENT VIA EMAIL: david.beck@kyvenues.com

Re: Kentucky State Fair Board and American Saddlebred Horse and Breeders Association

Dear David:

We received your recent correspondence on behalf of the Kentucky State Fair Board (KSFb), dated March 29, 2024. Your letter confirmed KSFb's decision to implement significant changes in governance for the 2024 World's Championship Horse Show (WCHS). We acknowledge there was deliberation behind this decision, yet we wish to express our concerns in a constructive and collaborative manner.

We find ourselves compelled to address the implications of KSFb's resolution to remove the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) as the licensing body for the WCHS. We firmly believe that the longstanding partnership between USEF and ASHBA has been pivotal in upholding the integrity of the show and promoting the welfare of the Saddlebred breed. As such, and to be perfectly clear, **ASHBA cannot and will not put our affiliate status with USEF in jeopardy.**

We understand that KSFb may not have been aware of the ASHBA's USEF Affiliate Agreement prior to the decision-making process. ASHBA and its members are further restricted by ASHBA's Bylaws which expressly require that both ASHBA and its members comply with and be subject to the rules, regulations, and requirements of USEF. Furthermore, the nomination forms for all of ASHBA's incentive and prize programs and any sweepstakes with which it is associated expressly notify participants that they enter into those agreements on the condition that they accept, and adhere to, USEF rules and regulations. It is important to note that this information and copies of these documents have been readily available on ASHBA's website, and we would have welcomed the opportunity to address any concerns had KSFb sought our input beforehand.

Our mission is rooted in promoting and protecting the American Saddlebred Horse with the utmost integrity. Thus, KSFb's decision raises concerns about the alignment of our respective



principles and obligations. While we acknowledge the termination of the 1995 agreement, we cannot overlook the ramifications of KSFB's recent actions, which compel us, both legally and ethically, to disassociate with the WCHS going forward, which we stated in our March 15 letter.

This means that we will have to move all prize programs, including the National Futurity, National Amateur Futurity, Sweepstakes and Breeders Challenge classes, from the 2024 WCHS unless an understanding can be reached between USEF and KSFB for management and governance of those classes. Furthermore, any prior licenses granted to KSFB for the use of ASHBA's names, brand names, symbols, slogans, seals, emblems, logos, insignia, trademarks, trademark applications, trade names, trade dress, service marks, designs, and trade styles are hereby revoked, and we kindly request that KSFB refrain from using them in any promotional materials for the upcoming event.

However, ASHBA has worked with the USEF over the past week and there may be a path available through negotiations between KSFB and USEF that will permit ASHBA to continue to allow ASHBA's Futurity and Sweepstakes Classes to remain during the week of the WCHS in 2024. ASHBA asks KSFB to please explore this path, which cannot be negotiated by ASHBA. Should KSFB and USEF reach an acceptable resolution, ASHBA is committed to cooperating within the bounds of our Bylaws and contractual obligations. ASHBA kindly asks that any proposed approach be presented to us by end of day Friday, April 5, to facilitate a timely resolution. ASHBA hopes that an amicable solution can be reached between the KSFB and USEF.

We want to emphasize that this outcome is not one ASHBA desired, but rather a consequence of KSFB's unilateral actions. We recognize the disappointment and frustration felt by all parties involved, and we wish to seek a resolution that is fair and equitable for everyone.

Sincerely,

Allen Bosworth
President

David Mount
Executive Director & CEO

cc: Dr. Mark Lynn, Chairman, KSFB
Ellen Benzing, General Counsel
Kevin Moore, KEC General Manager