

Questions To Kentucky State Fair Board

1. If the mission of the Kentucky State Fair Board is to “advance Kentucky’s agriculture and tourism industries and economy while serving the entertainment, cultural and educational interests of the public,” why was the decision to change governing bodies for the WCHS done without any input from ASHBA, other industry organizations or customers of the show? **The WCHS is an independent Horse Show owned and produced by the Kentucky State Fair Board. See KRS 247.140(1)(f). The decision to seek licensure from an alternative governing body for the 2024 WCHS was made by KSF members who did have input from Saddlebred industry organizations and WCHS exhibitors. Was the broader Saddlebred industry in Kentucky and the implications of your decision ever considered or just the horse show? The decision to change licensure to a different governing body, Equine Sports Council, for the 2024 WCHS should not affect the broader Saddlebred industry in Kentucky or anywhere else. The WCHS will remain a premiere world’s championship horse show held to high standards of operation and management, as it always has been.**
2. Why was the Equine Sports Council chosen as the governing body of the WCHS over USEF? **The KSF applied for licensure from ESC for the 2024 WCHS as the KSF believes the ESC will serve as a strong working partner focused on Saddlebred horse competitions. What due diligence did you do before making this decision? ESC rules were reviewed and the ESC Board members were interviewed on January 22, 2024. Multiple KSF staff members participated in the interview with ESC, including the KSF member Saddlebred representative. Based on this information, the decision was made by staff collectively to recommend to the KSF Committee and the In-House Events Committee to consider ESC as the governing body of the 2024 WCHS. ESC focuses on the Saddlebred competitions. Who did you consult with? The January 22, 2024 meeting with ESC included those we deemed necessary, such as, but not limited to, Board members Jackie Hale, who appeared in person, and Shawn Darnell, who participated virtually. Why was this done under wraps? The meeting with ESC was not “done under wraps,” rather, senior staff, WCHS manager, the KSF member representative of the Saddlebred industry, and our President and CEO met with ESC. This was a huge decision with ripple effects throughout our industry and the larger equine world. It goes to our reputation and respect as a breed and a discipline. Was any of that taken into consideration? The WCHS has been the gold standard of Saddlebred competitions for 121 years. No decision is made without considering our industry and the equine world as a whole.**
3. Was the Kentucky State Fair Board told that ASHBA was aware of the decision and supported it even though ASHBA clearly was not aware of the decision? If yes, who told the KSF that ASHBA was aware of the decision and supported it? **The KSF has a representative of the Saddlebred industry who was recommended by ASHBA. That**

board member fully supported the decision.

4. What were the reasons why you decided to drop USEF in favor of ESC? See the above responses, in addition to the following: Please see response to number two. Did USEF find issues with the show last year? **Yes.** And if so, what are the issues and are they being addressed? **Attached is the 2023 USEF compliance letter addressed to the WCHS/KSFB. The KSFB staff expressed to USEF on January 17, 2024, the issues either already were, or would be addressed for the 2024 WCHS.**
5. Did you consider existing agreements between the KSFB and ASHBA, along with the affiliate agreements between ASHBA, AHHS, ARHPA and USEF while making the decision and the possibility that ASHBA, AHHS and ARHPA organizations would not be able to participate in the show now? **We do not have a third-party agreement with ASHBA or other associations. Additionally, we were never provided the affiliate agreement between USEF and ASHBA that covers the 2023 and 2024 WCHS.** Did you expect everything to be status quo between the WCHS and ASHBA? **WCHS Management was hopeful that a positive relationship could exist and continue between our organizations for the best interest of the WCHS.** Can we see the minutes of the KSF Board Meeting and any relevant committee meetings where this was discussed and/or decided? How long was it debated? What questions were asked? We've seen that there were two committees who studied this. Who were on those committees? Who did they consult with or meet with before making these decisions? Did you realize the magnitude of this decision and just chose to disregard differing points of view? **Once finalized and approved and per the Kentucky Open Records Act, meeting minutes of the In-House Events Committee (February 13, 2024) and Kentucky State Fair Committee (February 9, 2024) as well as the February 15, 2024 meeting of the KSFB can be forwarded to ASHBA.**
6. The Kentucky Horse Park is a state--owned facility that hosts multiple USEF shows per year, including another major Saddlebred show, the Lexington Junior League Horse Show. Why is the Kentucky Horse Park so easily able to comply with USEF regulations vs. Kentucky Expo Center? **The Kentucky Horse Park mostly hosts Hunter/Jumper competitions which make up most of the membership of USEF. Two other Saddlebred Shows at the KHP, the Ky Spring Premiere and the Ky Fall Classic, are not sanctioned by USEF. Furthermore, Rocky Mountain HS, Rodeos, and many QH Shows are not sanctioned by USEF. USEF is not a prerequisite to show at the KHP.**
7. Many of the ESC governed shows are also run by people who are on the board of ESC or officers of ESC. Does this bother you? **No, our focus is the WCHS.** Who did you get references for ESC from? **References came from several individuals such as the WCHS Manager, Vickie Holston, and other Horse Show Managers from Wisconsin and Minnesota.**
8. It is clear from its latest press release that KSF will take responsibility for providing a safe and abuse free environment at the show, and not adhere to the banned list issued by the US Center for Safe Sport. Is the KSF Fair Board aware that ASHBA's contract with

USEF prohibits ASHBA from associating in any way with a show that does not enforce the banned list from the US Center for Safe Sport? **The WCHS will enforce the U.S. Center for SafeSport banned and suspended list. There are seven persons currently on that list who are prohibited from participating in Saddlebred competitions. Those seven (7) persons will not be allowed to participate at the 2024 WCHS. As noted in an earlier response, neither ASHBA nor USEF provided the Affiliate Agreement to the KSFB.**

9. Have you considered that by using two sets of rules (ESC and USEF) for qualifying show purposes that in creates an unfair playing field? **The WCHS will not be using two sets of rules.**
10. Although the statement of adherence to safety protocols to protect participants is appreciated, please provide a clear statement of whether the Horse Show intends to enforce the Safe Sport banned list and the USEF terminated/suspended list. **Yes, see the previous response on number nine (9).**
11. Does the Horse Show believe that its class winners' names in the ASHBA Registry records will be annotated with the prefixes WC, WCG, WCC, etc.? **This is a decision for ASHBA to make.** If so, what mechanism do you propose to do that without causing the ASHBA to be in breach of its existing Affiliate Agreement with USEF? **This is a decision for ASHBA to make.**
12. Does the Horse Show intend to include ASHBA prize program classes (Futurity, Sweepstakes, Breeders Challenge) in the prize list? **This is a decision for ASHBA to make.** If so, what mechanism do you propose to do that without causing the ASHBA to be in breach of its existing Affiliate Agreement with USEF? **This is a decision for ASHBA to make.**
13. Does the Horse Show intend that class winners will accumulate ASHBA points towards a horse's status a CH (Saddlebred Record Champion)? **This is a decision for ASHBA to make.** If so, what mechanism do you propose to do that without causing the ASHBA to be in breach of its existing Affiliate Agreement with USEF? **This is a decision for ASHBA to make.**
14. How will qualifying points for ASB pleasure and park divisions be handled? **This is a decision for ASHBA to make.** What shows will be tabulated and by whom? **If ASHBA is giving notice that it intends to not support the WCHS, the WCHS will continue as is for now and research other mechanisms to report.** Will points from 2023 USEF shows count for 2024 qualification as in past years? **Yes, the points from the 2023 WCHS, where the WCHS was licensed by USEF, will count for the 2024 WCHS.**

Questions To Kentucky State Fair Board/Equine Sports Council

The following questions have been answered by the KSFB

1. Given the absence of ESC rules at this time, how were you able to determine that this organization could and would provide you with a governance structure that would be appropriate for a horse show of this significance and magnitude? **ESC has been successful providing governance oversight at other Saddlebred horse competitions.**
2. Is there no concern for the optics of disassociating the World's Championship Horse Show from the USEF as it pertains to delegitimizing our sport and closely aligning ourselves with the walking horse breed? **We do not believe that because the WCHS will not seek licensure from USEF that it means the 2024 WCHS is aligning with the Walking Horse Breed.**
3. Have either the Kentucky State Fair Board or ESC considered the implications of disassociating from the USEF re: agreements in place between the breed associations and the USEF? **Please see the comments to other previous questions related to the Affiliate Agreements. The WCHS is not a party to the Affiliate Agreement between USEF and the ASHBA.** Have you asked anyone at any of the breed associations about this? **No.**
4. As the current judges and stewards are licensed by the USEF, has the World's Championship Horse Show considered that they were hired and contracted while the show was under the governance of the USEF. **We have not contracted anyone for the 2024 WCHS.** What is the plan if the USEF decides not to allow its licensed officials to govern a non--USEF show? **The 2024 WCHS will have qualified judges and officials.** Will the judges be forced to sever their hard--earned licensing from the USEF?
5. How has the broader Saddlebred Community responded to the decision to disassociate the WCHS from the USEF re: sponsorships, participation, etc.? **At this time, no one from the Saddlebred community has expressed that they will not sponsor the 2024 WCHS.** What happens if the horse show does not have the support from major sponsors as it has in year's past? **As WCHS management understands from speaking with sponsors, the majority of the sponsors desire to continue to sponsor the WCHS. The WCHS recognizes that sponsorship of the WCHS is voluntary, as it always has been.**
6. There was a petition sent from frustrated and disappointed owners, exhibitors, professionals and breeders regarding the decision to disassociate the WCHS from the USEF. Can you all comment on the petition? **Signing petitions is voluntary and speaks for itself. KSFB and WCHS management appreciate the interest in the WCHS, and the petition will be part of our records along with the emails and statements from those supporting the change.** What's the perspective of the KSF Board and ESC on this petition and its over 125 signees? **See response above.**

Questions To Equine Sports Council

1. General Questions:

- a. What is the largest show that ESC has governed? **Some of our larger shows include the Monarch National Championships, FASH, Southern Saddlebred Spring Fling and the Wisconsin Futurity.** How many horses were on the grounds? **Those shows range from 300-400 horses each year. Aside from Lexington Jr League, the KSF WCHS and the UPHA/American Royal, few shows in our industry have more than 300-400 entries.** Given the relative youth of your organization, what makes ESC qualified to govern a horse show like the WCHS? **The KSF determined that we were qualified.**
- b. As an entity that says it “governs Non--Olympic horse competitions from the Academy level to National Championship shows,” what organizations have recognized you as a “governing body” or are you self--proclaimed? **There are thousands of equine sports organizations. USEF is not the only governing body among the non-Olympic breeds and disciplines.**
- c. On the basis that it was “assumed” that ASHBA would have no problem with the ESC registering the World’s Championship Horse Show as an ASHBA Star Show, why was this not discussed with ASHBA prior to the decision being made? **ESC would not register the horse show as a Star show, the Kentucky State Fair would. We are not managing the horse show, we are simply providing governance and drug testing support.**
 - i. Do you have assurance from ASHBA that you’ll be an ASHBA Star Show? **The KSF will be fulfilling all the obligations required by ASHBA as outlined in the most current horse show application form. Therefore, ESC sees no reason why the KSF WCHS would not be accepted as a Star show.**
 - ii. If ASHBA decides not to allow the WCHS to be a Star Show under ESC governance, what is your intended path forward for matters that are owned by the association, including the recording and recognition of points and titles on record? The futurities? **Decisions made by organizations to engage in anticompetitive practices would most likely have unintended damaging effects to ASHBA without ESC taking any actions. ASHBA holds the funds to the Futurity classes at WCHS, and for those to be withheld would have detrimental impacts to the American Saddlebred Breeders Association.**
- d. Does the fact that your Advisory Council includes trainers who compete at the WCHS bother you when it comes to perception of potential conflicts of interest and charges of favoritism? Will these trainers be allowed to compete at the WCHS? **It is common for members of an organization’s Board of Directors or Advisory**

Committees to participate in horse shows. For example, USEF Board Members and Committee Members regularly compete at the WCHS and other USEF shows across the country in every breed and discipline. Most, if not all, ASHBA Board Members and Committee Members compete at the WCHS and other USEF shows. ESC's Board of Directors and Advisory Council will, likewise, be allowed to compete.

- e. The USEF Rule Book is copyrighted in its entirety. How are you going to ensure that you're not in violation of that copyright? **Our General Rules are our own, derived by researching a wide variety of other governing organizations across the country. Breed and Class Specifications are Sports Concepts, which are rules and standards of how our sport is played, and USEF does not own that copyright.** Is there a date when the rule book is going to be complete and no more changes to rules can be made? **March 31, 2024** Can changes to the rules be made during ESC governed shows? **No rules will be changed while an event is in progress.**
- f. ESC grants significant power to the "Show Commission" (cc "Show Commission" GL 205.1 in "draft rules) – including the power to "make unanimous decisions, including disqualification and removal of exhibitors from the show grounds." Can you please speak to this in--depth considering the fact that these individuals have the power to make **unanimous** decisions regarding the show and its attendees.
 - i. Will the "Show Committee" be published ahead of time? **Yes, the "Show Commission" is announced at least 30 days in advance.**
 - ii. Are decisions only made if the "Show Committee" is unanimous in its decision making? What are the tiebreakers if decisions are not unanimous? **If the Show Commission cannot make a unanimous decision, then no action is taken. It is the equivalent of a "hung jury".**
 - iii. How are we to be assured that the "Show Committee" is not making biased decisions regarding the show and its attendees. **The ESC "Show Commission" is designated by Show Management . If a unanimous decision regarding a rule violation is made, and the Accused does not accept the penalty, then the Accused may escalate the grievance to our neutral, third-party dispute resolution process.**
 - iv. What is the recourse if an objectively incorrect decision is made by the "Show Committee"? **If the accused refuses the Acceptance of Penalty, such refusal must be made in writing and provided to the Show Commission and to ESC via electronic mail and regular mail within five (5) days of the offer of Acceptance of Penalty. The Penalty shall then be implemented unless the accused proceeds with an Administrative Hearing under RE 1105.**
 - v. Who will be the Show Committee for the WCHS? **That is up to the KSF Board and Show Management to determine.**

- g. As of late 2023, ESC was advertising for all official positions? **ESC has advertised/promoted our Officials Registry for horse show officials.** How will ESC ensure the proper manpower to govern one of the largest horse shows in the United States? **KSF has the responsibility of managing the show and providing adequate officials to enforce the rules.** Does ESC have requirements for the number of stewards at a horse show based on its size? **No. But the KSF will employ knowledgeable Stewards of their own choosing, in the same volume as they have previously. In addition to the Stewards, the ESC Show Commission will rule on violations and impose penalties. ESC Directors will be available 24/7 should show management have any questions regarding the decision-making process, but ESC Directors will not be involved in rulings.**
- h. How are you prepared to ensure trotting breeds are protected from baseless accusations of abuse by animal rights groups? What is your lobbying capability to protect our training methods from being conflated with walking horse soring methods? **ESC is a horse show governing organization. We provide standards, rules and guidelines that create a safe environment for both human and equine athletes. ESC directors stay well apprised of USDA proposed rules and the PAST Act, neither of which specify any “trotting breeds” in their current language. As breed affiliates, ASHBA, AHHS and ARHPA should continue to expect USEF to lobby for and defend them. ESC does not affiliate breeds – we simply govern horse shows.**
- i. USEF has a long history of defending decisions in court. Have you ever been challenged or had to defend yourselves in court? If so, what was the outcome? **ESC Director and General Counsel, Tamara Tucker, focuses on appellate law, insurance defense and equestrian sports law. The ESC drug testing process follows ISO certified standards, and the ESC Hearing Officers are independent neutrals. No, ESC has not been challenged in court.**
- j. The WCHS is literally a 24/7 proposition for almost two weeks. How do you plan to support the numerous questions that come up. We know the USEF has a hot line that is manned all of the time. How do you plan to support the questions that come up in real time? **Our leadership team will be available 24/7.**

2. Regarding Financial Ability:

- a. Do you have a determination letter from the IRS designating ESC as a 501c3 not for profit organization? If no, why did you not seek the IRS 501c designation? **We have not sought IRS 501c status.**
- b. Are your 990's or other tax returns available for public inspection? If not why? **We are a private entity.**
- c. Do you have any paid employees or officers? **ESC is a private AL corporation and its**

Officers are not paid for their positions. If so, who? Our employment records are not public information.

- d. Where or who does your funding come from? ESC is a private AL corporation, primarily funded through ESC Network Fees collected by the horse shows.
- e. How do we or the KSF know that you have the proper financial backing to govern a show the size of the WCHS? ESC has a \$2M D&O insurance policy and a \$2M General Business Liability Policy. We provide any private contractor workers with a liability insurance policy, as well as each KSF Judge with a complimentary \$6M liability policy. ESC is an additional insured on the KSF event policy. KSF thoroughly vetted our organization and was satisfied with their findings.
- f. Do you have enough cash reserves to defend lawsuits? See above.
- g. Have you ever been audited? What was the outcome? ESC is an Alabama Corporation, in good standing with the State of Alabama. ESC state and federal taxes are prepared by a Certified Public Accounting firm. We have never been audited.

3. Regarding Safe Sport:

- a. What will ESC's policy be for entries and presence of people currently on the US Center for Safe Sport banned list? Will they be allowed to show? Will they be allowed on the grounds? ESC is not a National Governing Body of an Olympic Sport, therefore we have no jurisdiction with regard to the USCSS. However, our rules support a horse show's decision to enforce any banned and suspended list. The KSF WCHS has announced that they will enforce the USCSS banned and suspended list.
- b. Who will be responsible for enforcing the ban? WCHS
- c. How can we be sure that ESC will uphold the decision of a show to support Safe Sport and ban people on the US Center for Safe Sport list, when an officer of ESC has represented individuals on the banned and suspended list. Do you see this as a conflict for ESC? No. Will the officer's clients who are on the banned and suspended list be allowed to show at the WCHS? No one on the banned and suspended list will be allowed at the WCHS.
- d. Since an officer of ESC has represented those on the US Center Center for Safe Sport banned list and has been outspoken against Safe Sport, how can we be assured that no one on the banned list, including the officer's clients, will be allowed at the WCHS? Could this be seen as a conflict of interest? The WCHS has stated they will enforce the USCSS banned and suspended list.
- e. What guarantees are there that minors will be protected in accordance with Safe Sport rules? ESC is not a National Governing Body of an Olympic Sport, therefore

we have no jurisdiction with regard to the USCSS. However, our rules support a horse show's decision to enforce any banned and suspended list. The KSF WCHS has announced that they will enforce the USCSS banned and suspended list.

- f. What is your process for handling allegations of abuse of a minor? **Call the police.**
- g. How will ESC prevent retaliation against those who report abuse of a minor? What are the penalties for retaliation? **Abuse of a minor will be reported to the police.**
- h. As set forth by the safe sport act of 2017, organizations in charge of youth sports are required to provide oversight and education for youth. Right now, we meet that requirement through our affiliation with USEF who requires yearly safe sport education. Because ESC is a NON MEMBER organization, who will be required to educate and oversee the Federal requirements? **The "federal requirements" apply only to those youth sports that fall under the USOPC. There are thousands of youth sport organizations that do not require Safe Sport training. ESC has a zero-tolerance policy with regard to putting humans at risk. See Ch. 7 - Welfare**
- i. What training program do you have in place for adults who are in regular contact with minors as required by federal law? **See above.**
- k. What is your protocol for reporting, response, and resolution for people accused of sexual, emotional, or physical abuse as required by Federal law? **See above.**
- l. Have you ever made any reports of abuse? How have you dealt with them? We have noticed that there is literally no one on your suspensions list. Is this normal? Will that mean that anyone not on your list (which is literally everyone) can compete? **We do not have anyone suspended at this time as a result of an ESC rule violation, including non-payment of debts. As stated previously, we do not have any jurisdiction to enforce the USCSS banned and suspended list, and we do not currently have a reciprocity agreement with any other equine governing organization.**

4. Regarding Rules:

- a. As ESC has been updating and writing rules to be used in oversight of the 2024 WCHS, why were the breed associations who participate at this show not consulted as their breed standards and regulations are already in place? Instead, it has been written that individuals were consulted and asked to help write the new ESC rules. **Breed affiliates are bound by their USEF Affiliate Agreements and are not permitted to work with any other governing body. Therefore, we have engaged with other industry professionals to assist with updating our rules.**
- b. How are the rules being written? Since these will be untested rules, how will you put them to the test before showing up on this industry's biggest stage? We've been watching the draft rules change daily on the ESC web site. How is this

happening? Who is writing these rules? Are there committees or processes for writing and vetting these ideas? **The industry professionals we have engaged make suggestions to the ESC BOD and Advisory Council, and all updates and changes are approved by the ESC BOD.**

- c. When will the final general and breed rules be available? **By March 31, 2024** What is the process to make changes? Who makes the changes? **The industry professionals we have engaged make suggestions to the ESC BOD and Advisory Council, and all updates and changes are approved by the BOD.** Can changes occur at the show? **Changes cannot occur during an event in progress.**
- d. We have already seen mistakes in the rules draft pertaining to the start of the competition year, which would have meant that current junior exhibitors born in December would have had to compete as adults, along with other issues. How can we be sure that more mistakes will not be made that will have adverse effects on exhibitors? **This was not a mistake. The Juvenile Exhibitor Age as well as the Horse Age were both originally set at January 1st. It was brought to our attention that date would cause problems for Juveniles at the WCHS in their final year of competition, so we changed it to December 1st.**
- e. The Youth division has changed from the current age to now being 18--21. Will this have the same specs as the youth division with the ages of 16--21 that the Morgans and Saddlebreds already have in the USEF rule book? Will this be to open, amateur or juvenile specifications? **Our General Rule states Youth are 18-21. Breed rules supersede General Rules, and we will ensure the proper specifications for Morgans and Saddlebreds.**
- f. The ESC rule defining amateurs is quite different than the USEF rule -- how will WCHS be determining amateur status for this year's Horse Show? How will disputes about status be resolved? **Amateurs attest to their status when they sign the entry form with the following statement:**
EVERY ENTRY AT A SHOW THAT PAYS THE EQUINE SPORTS COUNCIL EXHIBITION AND/OR DRUG FEES AND IS EXHIBITED AND JUDGED ACCORDING TO THE ESC RULES AND GUIDELINES SHALL CONSTITUTE AN AGREEMENT AND AFFIRMATION THAT: (1) THE OWNER, AGENT, LESSEE, TRAINER, MANAGER, COACH, DRIVER AND RIDER AND ANY OF HIS/HER REPRESENTATIVES ARE BOUND BY THE SHOW RULES; (2) THAT EVERY HORSE, RIDER, AND/OR DRIVER IS ELIGIBLE AS ENTERED, INCLUDING AMATEUR OR PROFESSIONAL STATUS; (3) THEY AGREE TO ACCEPT AS FINAL THE DECISION OF SHOW MANAGEMENT ON ANY QUESTION ARISING UNDER SAID RULES, AND AGREE TO HOLD THE SHOW, EQUINE SPORTS COUNCIL, THEIR OFFICIALS, DIRECTORS, AND EMPLOYEES HARMLESS FOR ANY ACTION TAKEN; (4) THAT THE OWNER, RIDER/DRIVER AND ANY OF THEIR AGENTS OR REPRESENTATIVES AGREE TO HOLD THE SHOW,

EQUINE SPORTS COUNCIL, AND THEIR OFFICIALS, DIRECTORS, EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS HARMLESS FOR ANY INJURY OR LOSS SUFFERED DURING OR IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SHOW, WHETHER OR NOT SUCH INJURY OR LOSS RESULTED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY FROM THE NEGLIGENT ACTS OR OMISSIONS OF SAID OFFICIALS, DIRECTORS, EMPLOYEES OR AGENTS OF THE SHOW OR EQUINE SPORTS COUNCIL.

Any violation of this rule will follow our Rule Enforcement process.

- g. Who will determine amateur and professional status? It seems to be unclear. See above
- h. Will breed rules address Saddlebred ponies going up in height to 14.3? Breed rules supersede General rules, and Saddlebred-Type ponies may be 14.3 hands.
- i. USEF provides conformation guidelines specific to Saddlebreds, ESC rules do not have corresponding provisions, will conformation not be judged at the WCHS? Our breed rules will include conformation specifications.

5. Regarding Drug Testing:

- a. Under the published draft of ESC guidelines, Horse shows with over 250 entries MAY elect to have drug testing. Why is this not mandatory? Drug testing is optional for any ESC network show. However, any horse on the grounds may be drug tested if there is an animal welfare concern.
- b. Have you ever conducted drug testing at another show and if so what show(s)? No, but the KSF has been drug testing other livestock events for years and we will be working with the KSF and KY state veterinarian to provide drug testing for the WCHS.
- c. What is the process for ensuring the integrity of samples drawn for testing? Who draws samples, what is the chain of custody? We will follow an ISO certified lab's procedures.
- d. What lab to you use for drug testing and what are their references? It is an ISO certified lab that the KSF has approved.
- e. What are your protocols for testing? For B samples? Where are your Standard Operating Procedures? We will follow the ISO certified lab's procedures.
- f. What are you testing for? What are your allowed thresholds? Performance Enhancing Drugs - see Ch 8 – Drug and Medication Policy.
- g. How many positive tests have you ever received? What did you do? What was the adjudication process? ESC's rule enforcement and penalty standards are published in our General Rules.
- h. Have you ever suspended anyone for drug infraction? Have you ever publicized this? ESC's penalty standards are published in our General Rules
- i. In the "draft rules," it states "ESC will contract with a local licensed veterinarian to

randomly perform drug testing *at the direction of ESC*” under “Drug Testing Fees” RS402. Can you speak to “at the direction of ESC”? This gives the impression that ESC can subjectively elect who is drug tested and who isn’t drug tested. **ESC will contract with a local, licensed veterinarian who does not have a conflict of interest with any participants. Entries will be randomly selected for drug testing.**

How are we to be assured that random drug testing will be truly random and not subjectively chosen by ESC or show management? **See above**

- j. Is the “Show Committee” designating who will be drug tested? **No**
- k. Regarding drug rules, which are largely listed as “under review” on the ESC website, which classes of drugs, if any, will result in automatic if disqualification from the entirety of the 2024 horse show for the entry found to test positive for a violation? Which, if any, classes of drugs would also result in a suspension from the 2025 KSF horse show of the trainer of an entry found to test positive for a violation? Who are the members of the committee, or what individual or body, will hear appeals of sanctions and ultimately be responsible for determining sanctions? **That information is provided in Ch 8 Drug and Medical Policy and Ch 9 – Rule Enforcement, which includes the Table of Penalties.**
- l. Is there a support number for veterinarians who have questions about applicable drug rules like USEF? **1-855 EQUINE1 – Option 1 if an event is in progress.**
- m. How can we be assured of the education and experience of the drug tester? **Drug testers will be licensed veterinarians referred to us by the State Vet office.** How will we know it is an ESC drug tester? **They will have a badge.** What experience does ESC have in contracting with drug testers and labs? **Our board members have experience with equine drug cases, as well as FDA and ISO certified consulting experience. ESC and the KSF are contracted with one of the top livestock drug testing laboratories in the country.**

6. Regarding Hearing Processes:

ESC has been successful in governing over 13,000 exhibitors. Our Rule Enforcement process via the “Show Commission” has been utilized with successful resolutions, along with ESC having recovered debt for multiple horse shows. A history of previously suspended exhibitors is not publicly available. See Ch 9 – Rule Enforcement. (Questions A-G)

- a. How many hearings have you ever had?
- b. What were the outcomes?
- c. Are those outcomes public?
- d. How many people have you ever penalized?
- e. How do you handle appeals?

- f. What happens to people who are suspended or banned?
- g. We've seen that no one is on the banned or suspended list? Does that mean you've never had a complaint or no one has ever been found deficit?
- h. Has ESC engaged with USEF to ensure that there is a mechanism to enforce ESC suspensions across more than just the ESC network of shows? For example, if a violation occurs at the WCHS and a suspension is imposed, how will ESC (and the horse world at large) be sure that individual isn't able to show at a USEF governed show during the suspension period? If not, how is that better for our industry and the desire that competitions (especially this show of all shows!!) be conducted fairly and safely? **ESC does not have a reciprocity agreement with USEF.**
- i. In its most recently published rule book, the maximum penalties to be imposed for rule violations are \$500 and a six--month suspension. Does ESC plan to make changes to its penalty structure? Any changes expected for the arbitration provisions? **Any changes to our DRAFT rules will be made by March 31, 2024.**
- j. What authority does the ESC have when someone is banned/suspended to keep them from participating? **Just as with USEF, when a participant is suspended, they are not allowed to enter another ESC show for the duration of their suspension period. Horse shows in our network are required to enforce our Suspension List.**
- k. ESC has said they are going to uphold the current USEF banned/suspended list, yet it says on their website there is currently no one banned from participation in 2024. **ESC does not have any jurisdiction with regard to the USCSS banned and suspended list because we are not under the USOPC, but our rules support a show's decision to enforce that list.**

7. Regarding Licensed Officials:

- a. How does ESC plan to select judges, stewards, veterinarians, etc.? Their website says that applications and a list are available but not listed to date. Is there a licensing procedure in place? If so, which rules and regulations will be used by these people in their official capacity? Currently, USEF licenses judges and stewards go through testing and learner programs before individuals are allowed to judge at shows of any prestige. Is ESC using the licenses obtained through USEF to determine the eligibility of judges and stewards as the rules of each organization may vary. **ESC does not license officials. We offer an Officials Registry whereby Judges (with official licenses from other organizations or those with industry experience) as well as other show officials (ringmasters, show managers, stewards, etc) may register with us. Their names and credentials/experience/references are provided to show managers who are part of network upon request. It is up to the show management to check those credentials/references and choose Officials that**

are qualified for their show.

- b. What experience does ESC leadership have governing a horse show that has licensed stewards? Example at Madison in 2023, the prize list says the Show Secretary was also the Steward? How can that be? **ESC encourages the use of individuals who have been trained to be Stewards, however, the designation of a "Steward" can alternatively be a show manager or a Show Commission member with the ability to enforce guidelines. Members of a show's management team may serve more than one role.**
- c. Do you have a contingency plan if you cannot use USEF licensed judges and stewards at ESC governed shows? **ESC does not require that Judges have a USEF license.**
- d. Does the ESC leadership have any experience educating or licensing officials? **ESC does not license officials.**
- e. How does the ESC license and educate stewards? What are the requirements for an ESC Steward? **See above.**
- f. How does ESC license and educate judges? What are the requirements for an ESC judge? **See above.**
- g. When disputes arise at the show, how is the ESC prepared to properly handle and carry out reprimands? **See Ch 9 – Rule Enforcement**
- h. How will stewards be held accountable to remain unbiased during disputes? **In addition to the Steward's ruling, the Show Commission will review the decision and must reach a unanimous agreement, otherwise no penalty is passed down.**
- i. How will the ESC Board ensure disputes are adjudicated fairly given their longstanding personal relationships with the American Saddlebred community? **Our dispute resolution process does not involve the ESC Board. We use independent neutral arbitration.**
- j. The judges and stewards need support and backing. Although they are licensed by USEF (or at least we think that's what you're going to try to do but I guess there are no guarantees of that), how are you going to support them? Who backs up their rulings? Are they going to be trained on the ESC new rules before the show? **Yes.**

1. Regarding Safety:

In the instance that there are concurring safety emergencies / incidents that require ambulances and EMTs, what is the safety plan? **The KSF has safety plans and protocols in place. There will be an ambulance with a paramedic next to Freedom Hall at the North entrance near the chute 24/7 beginning the day before the WCHS.**

- a. Do you require a dedicated Safety Coordinator like USEF? **The KSFB employs a**

Director of Safety and Security.

- b. What are your biosecurity protocols? Animal health protocols at the WCHS fall under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Department of Agriculture Division of Animal Health. In addition, see ESC's rules -- WL707 Equine Biosecurity Guidelines.
- c. What happens if we have a situation like what happened at the Shenandoah horse show last year in Virginia? We know the USEF veterinarians helped open state borders and issued information. How will this happen? See above.
- d. What are your protocols if there is a horse fatality? Or, a human fatality? WCHS's official veterinarian will oversee the procedures for any horse fatality. The KSFB's Director of Safety and Security and Kentucky State Police will oversee protocol for any human fatality. See ESC's rules -- SC615 Accidents, Injuries or Fatalities