



International Friesian Horse Show Association
5040 Elrod Rd. Gainesville, GA 30506
Phone: 414-666-0145

April 25, 2020

Dear IFSHA Members and IFSHA World Show Exhibitors,

As the summer months approach, we find ourselves unable to show our equine partners and join our horse show families in a sport we all enjoy. The Covid 19 Viral Pandemic has gripped our nation and has dealt a devastating blow to the health, safety, and financial soundness of each of us and to the equine associations that host horse shows for our Friesians. As our country begins the process of reopening each state and tries to resume business and social functions, the threat of the Corona Virus is creating uncertainty for all.

The IFSHA Board of Directors have been meeting regularly to discuss the current Covid 19 situation and assess the needs of the IFSHA World Show in this ever-changing landscape. As each state opens, exhibitors will be following the rules of their individual states. The World Show, held in Springfield, Ohio, would be under the rules of the State of Ohio and the Federal Government. Out of state exhibitors will need to plan for travel across state lines and will be subject to each state's regulations as they cross. At this time, there is no way to know where each state will be in the upcoming months and what travel would look like. USEF will also be issuing guidelines for affiliated horse shows to follow for the remainder of the competition year.

For the safety of our exhibitors, trainers, owners and horse show personnel, IFSHA would follow all guidelines set by the CDC and our affiliate, USEF. The barn will need to be restricted to trainers, exhibitors and owners with social distancing rules to be followed. IFSHA will be unable to allow Hospitality Booths in the barn, no large group gatherings and eliminate gathering areas such as sponsor tables, award booths, and limit visitors to the horse show office. We are asked to eliminate spectators and the use of gloves and masks would be encouraged for all, as well as checking temperatures of those attending.

The IFSHA board is well aware of the financial hardships for some of our members that have lost jobs, and businesses, as well as our professional members and the unique multi-faceted hardships they may be experiencing due to loss of income from boarding, training, and lesson programs. Even with these constraints, the horses still need the utmost care and attention and are for many of us helping us get through this unique time.

IFSHA's first priority is the safety of our IFSHA horse show families. Coupled with the uncertainty of the future months, financial challenges of producing a World Show and the legal advice by IFSHA's attorney, the IFSHA Board of Directors has agreed that it is in the best interest of our members and the IFSHA association to suspend the 2020 IFSHA World and Grand

National Horse Show and the corresponding show season. Therefore, IFSHA will not sponsor, support or be affiliated with any horse show in 2020 due to the legal advice IFSHA has received. We also will be suspending for the 2020 show year our IFSHA Horse of the Year Program.

While this has not been an easy decision, the Board felt it was only fair to make the decision early so that host associations and IFSHA member exhibitors could plan accordingly.

The IFSHA Board of Directors extends their sympathies to all of our members and their families that have been affected by this pandemic. The IFSHA board appreciates all of our members that have renewed their memberships for the 2020 year and have voted to extend the current 2020 memberships for our members thru November 30, 2021. Moving forward, IFSHA will look to make the 2021 IFSHA World and Grand National Show an event we will all be excited to attend. I will look forward to seeing our IFSHA exhibitors and our amazing Friesian horses center ring in 2021!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce Griffin".

Bruce Griffin
IFSHA President