

ALPINE SPORT COMMITTEE FALL CONFERENCE CALL

Friday, October 14, 2016

Minutes

1. Welcome and call to order – Darryl Landstrom

Darryl Landstrom called to order the Fall Alpine Sport Committee at 10:00am Central Time.

2. Roll Call – Darryl Landstrom

Conducted a roll call. The following persons were present:

Alpine Sport Committee: Chuck Hughes, Stefan Hughes, Jess Kelly, Todd Kelly, Chip Knight, Karen Korfanta, Craig Krueger, Mike Morin, Warner Nickerson, Joe Paul, Mike Bowman, Bruce Crane, Douglas Hall, Paul Van Slyke, Bill Slattery, Tom Winters, Jon Nolting

USSA Staff: Darlene Nolting, Gwynn Watkins, Martin Guyer, Brewster McVicker, Bill Gunesch, Jeff Weinman, Alex Natt, Jon Casson, Patti Nichols

Guest: Sherri Hale

3. Agenda review and approval – Darryl Landstrom

The agenda was approved. None opposed

4. Review and approval of May 14, 2016 Minutes

The minutes were approved as read. None opposed

5. Reports

5.1. Staff Update – Chip Knight

- At the regional development level we are working towards better identifying a path of advancement for our development athletes. This includes the National Performance Series (NPS), and the new National Junior Championships, in addition to building out other national, tri-regional, and regional projects. On a grassroots level we are asking the divisions and regions to provide regular SkillsQuest opportunities for U12, U14, and U16 age groups to help develop fundamental skills. A broad-based fitness assessment has also been developed for the club level. The fitness assessment is being fine-tuned and will be officially rolled out next spring.

Discussion:

- Do you have a timeline on USST qualification criteria? It will be rolled out in the next few weeks.

- Would you be willing to take feedback from a U16 working group in the approval of the fitness assessment? The protocol has been out for 6 months. We have been in the process of revising it and are still accepting feedback.

5.2. USSA BOD – Darryl Landstrom

- Anti-doping is a key challenge for FIS. It was a major focus of the FIS meetings in Zurich and will be an emphasized going forward. Branding is currently a work in process, creating a single look and feel for all teams. The new brand is expected to be rolled out during the Olympic year. Earning quotas for the Olympics will be done in this coming year, the timeline should be published in the near future. There is a proposal that was tabled until spring to make a revision to the FIS age groups and revert back to the age groups from 2013. Global Rescue is expanding their coverage which is now offered to all USSA athletes that are traveling with USSA. The next in person BOD meeting is Saturday, May 13, 2017.

5.3. Athlete Rep – Warner Nickerson

- After reaching out to a handful of Ski Team athletes a majority have been happy with the services provided. The non-funded athletes have expressed that it is a challenging and stressful environment. A new format will allow endowments will be broken into 3 buckets: athlete education, named coaches positions, and athlete funding.

5.4. Judicial – Bill Slattery

- No new activity

5.5. Education – John Nolting

- On the Alpine side there have been some changes, we welcome Jon Casson and his team which includes Chris Packert (education content development) and Ellen Adams (club development). We are looking to create a new Club Working Group within the ASC structure.
- Jon Casson: Chris Packert is helping to develop educational opportunities with online programs, which will be relevant as we move towards creating online education system. We are working on reactivating Alpine Coach WG and Education SC.

5.6. Development – Mike Morin

- We are looking to add at-large members to our working groups. All of the new working groups have been activated. We had many action items that came from staff and the new system is working.

5.7. FIS – Paul Van Slyke

- **Courses Report**
 - At this time, there are some 124 "active" course approvals:
 - 24 'left-overs' from applications prior to 2015 (most of these being incomplete or unpaid from 2009, the first year of all required to be homologated.)
 - 15 from 2015
 - 86 current season (applications since March 2016) - 34 FIS, 52 USSA
 - There are nine FIS and USSA courses which will expire this fall.
- **New Rules**
 - Rules state that athletes and all FIS participants need to have sufficient liability insurance. Rule changes for Men's skis for next season have been outlined in the Southern Hemisphere Precisions. The changes for Northern Hemisphere will be published mid to late November. Gate judge video is getting ready to be released soon. NPS, 627 if a DSQ or DNS they have added NPS to their run; they do not get to run the second run in a two run event. The only exception is for AC, if they run a SL before.
 - This season, Not Permitted to Start in ICR 627 rule added to 627.6 "Does not wear a crash helmet" now also includes "does not wear or carry official start number according to the rules."
 - Penalties: In ICR 628.14 wears obscene names and symbols on clothing or equipment or behaves in an un-sportsman like manner a penalty will be assessed by the jury in these situations.
 - Language change - to the 2 run downhill. In ICR 706.1 removed language if the topography of a country does not permit a DH then a two run DH will be permitted.
 - FIS changed their rules for Youth SL specifications for course setting, they now match up with our USSA rules. The matrix can be found on the USSA Rules web page.
 - Discussion:
 - Comment from Tom Winters - For teams traveling to areas with known terrorist. It's up to the individual TD to decide if you go or don't go FIS will not be taking a side on these issues.
- A new gate judge video should be out within the month.

5.8. Technical – Douglas Hall

- The two adders have been approved by the board and have been applied to those races. All people involved have been notified of the changes.
- Time accuracy has changed from 5/1000 of a second to 1/1000 of a second for the time between A to B. This information should be distributed to the educational classes being held.
- USSA TD: Tony Nunnikoven has resigned from USSA TD Working Group, so Chuck Hughes the vice chair will take over.
- All educational information is up to date and posted on the website.

5.9. Regional – Craig Krueger

- The new organization chart has a regional subcommittee; two members from each region. Trying to get an additional west and rocky/central region member on the committee.
- Alex Natt: At FIS meeting in Zurich it was asked to approve a rule to allow masters athletes of a certain age not to wear a helmet. If approved, it would be recommended that USSA doesn't enforce this rule.

6. Action Items – Darryl Landstrom

6.1. U.S. Alpine Championships Quota – Chip Knight

- U.S. Nationals Quota Proposal: this is a clarification because there won't be a U19 championships next year. We are proposing that athletes that would have qualified as top 3 performers of U19 National Championships will qualify through the NorAm and the U19 NPS for this season.
 Motion: Mike Bowman
 Second: Paul Van Slyke
 Passed Unanimously

6.2. U.S. Junior National Championships Quota – Chip Knight

- National Junior Championships: We would like to add additional juniors on top of the U.S. Nationals athletes who can come in for the Junior National events to fill out the field size and have a chance to compete at this level. We are asking for 5 men/5 women per region and up to 10 development.
 Motion: Mike Bowman
 Second: Craig Krueger
 Discussion:
 - The regions will decide how they use their 5 spots correct? Yes, the regions can fill these spots how they see fit.

- How will the development quota be managed? It will be managed nationally, we will ask for requests and staff will assess requests as we do for U.S. Nationals.

Passed Unanimously

6.3. Course Setting Specifications for U16 and Younger – Chip Knight

- Last year we had a task force work on course setting standards. We need to make a clarification about the training run requirements for U12 and U14 SG competition. We are asking to adjust the course setting matrix by reinserting reference to rule U1256.4.

Motion: Mike Bowman

Second: Bill Slattery

Discussion:

- Can we amend the proposed language for U1256.4 and change the verb “must” to “should.”
- Amended proposal:
 - Official training for U12 and U14 SG must include at least one SG training run prior to the first competition. Official training for U12 and U14 SG events is an integral part of the competition and all athletes are required to participate. In exceptional cases, which must be documented in the jury minutes, a controlled free-ski run may be authorized in lieu of an official training run. If racing with U16 athletes, U1256.4 applies: U14 and younger athletes must be provided a training run as provisioned in this rule.

Motion: Paul Van Slyke

Second: Karen Korfanta

Passed Unanimously

6.4. USSA Equipment Rules – Chip Knight

- **Ratification of USSA U19 and older Women’s GS Regulations for 2017-18 – Chip Knight**
USSA staff is proposing that we move to further synchronize equipment rules with FIS, requiring that U19 and older women use 30m GS skis for USSA competition, effective in season 2017-18.

Motion: Mike Bowman

Second: Craig Krueger

Passed Unanimously

- **Recommendation to form a task force to study USSA adoption of all FIS equipment rules for SL and GS – Chip Knight**

In the effort to close any remaining loop holes between the FIS and USSA equipment regulations, USSA staff proposes that we convene another taskforce to look at our

equipment regulations and see if it is possible to fully synchronize with FIS equipment regulations. The goal would be to allow FIS to set equipment regulations going forward.

Discussion:

- Recommendation that this taskforce meet at U16 Nationals. Last year's meeting at US Nationals was effective.

6.5. Ski Length Measurement Tolerance of +/- 1CM – Van Slyke

We need to make a clarification to ski length measurements, allowing for a +/- 1 cm tolerance. There will be a precision document released in December to correct any changes along these lines that were not made in the ACR.

Clarification – no vote required

6.6. U16 NPS Quota- Knight

- We approved the overall quota last spring but didn't clarify how it would be selected. As USSA staff, we want to have some uniformity around how each region selects their U16 NPS athletes without cutting out strong athletes from a high performing region. Staff's original proposal has been amended to select a larger number of athletes nationally, and then give each region a smaller quota to allow for flexibility and discretion, especially for young athletes.

- Proposal: 9 boys and 9 girls as ranked nationally from last year's U16 National competition, 4 boys and 4 girls per region, and 3 boys and 3 girls national development.

Motion: Warner Nickerson

Second: Bill Slattery

Discussion:

- Where is the 7 Nations group in this criteria? Would that be a separate proposal or will an amendment will be made for 7 Nations Cup?
- Amendment: 7 Nations Cup athletes will be automatics on a national quota for U16 Nationals above the current and existing regional quotas.

Motion: Warner Nickerson

Second: Bill Slattery

Approved as amended

7. Alpine Event Calendar – Karen Korfanta

- NorAm calendar on the USA side published on the FIS webpage is correct. Now there is not an off-day at Copper; DH training dates are 2/5-6 and race dates are 2/7-8.
- Canada has just lost Mt. Saint Anne. They have confirmed that the ladies will now will be at Mt. Garceau for GS and at Val Saint-Come for SL. Men have not been confirmed but hope to have the same dates for GS and SL at Mt. Ste. Marie.

- Copper and Panorama AC will be stand-alone AC and will be seeded by AC points

8. Comp Guide/Intent to Compete/Online Entry – Jeff Weinman

- The Comp Guides are posted and are in the mail. Meghan Arigo is overseeing intents this year.

9. New Business

9.1. USSA Awards Nominations – Bill Slattery

- Award nominations are open. We encourage all the volunteers and staff to recommend individuals for these awards. We will be going through nominations in April on the conference call. The nominations need to be in by mid to late March. This is a great opportunity for us to recognize key volunteers and leaders.

9.2. Subcommittee Elections – Darryl Landstrom

- Page 8: Under the alpine subcommittee and working groups a language change has been made to make sure that we have equal representation from each of the regions.
Discussion:
 - Is there still variance for the AO education committee? There is still variation for the education committee with 4 representatives from each region for AO education committee because of the large amount of work.
- Page 15: Part of the affiliation requirement required that division, state, and regional handbooks be presented to the ASC 30 days prior to Fall Executive Committee Meeting. Submission of the handbooks should be extended. This will be put on the agenda for congress.
- We have 2 subcommittees and 7 working groups that will require election procedures at congress in 2017.

9.3. FIS Age Change

- There is discussion at the FIS level for the potential age change. This would be an age change to allow for FIS level competition beginning at age 15. If this is moved forward it will not be effective until the 2018-19 season.

10. Old Business

10.1. ASC Committee Operating Procedures – discussion

10.2. Bylaws update – Craig Krueger

- Bylaws have been ratified. If regional representatives can reach out to their affiliates that have not approved their bylaws, we need to make sure we get these in place by the end of this year.

11. 2017 Congress Review – Darryl Landstrom

11.1. Schedule Change: Tuesday, May 9 (6pm) – Friday, May 12 (11am)

11.2. Executive Committee Meetings: 3PM Tue, May 9 and 7:30AM Fri, May 12

11.3. ASC Meetings: 6PM Tue, May 9 and 11AM Friday, May 12

11.2. Proposal Template – attached

12. Comments

13. Adjournment

Darryl Landstrom adjourned the meeting.

Motion: Craig Krueger

Second: Chuck Hughes