

# **CROSS COUNTRY SPORT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES USSA CONGRESS 2008 - PARK CITY, UT**

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May 14-17, 2008  
Chair: Jon Engen

## **1. Chairman's Introduction – Jon Engen**

Welcome to the XC Meetings of the 2008 USSA Congress.

Thank you all for coming here to Park City and for your constructive participation in our yearly meetings.

We welcome our new Nordic Director, John Farra; we are very excited about his appointment and look forward to be working with him in the years to come.

We also express our appreciation for the service of our outgoing Program Director Luke Bodensteiner. However, Luke is not leaving us; he is moving into a higher-level position within the organization.

We also welcome Patrick Weaver as our new BOD Athlete Representative.

It is fun to be a cheerleader for a winning team, and US Cross-country is carrying a lot of momentum at this time. We hear about our elite athletes reaching the World Cup podium with the emphasis that we now have multiple athletes capable of reaching the podium and that we had a skier, Kikkan Randall, on top this season. It was equally rewarding to see a regional skier such as Garrot Kuzzy cutting into the top 10 on the World Cup, and the whole women's Team had excellent performances led by Liz Stephen's bronze medal at the U23 World Championship. We continue to see promising results on the junior and development level.

It is really encouraging to see the will to participate and how the people are coming together for the betterment of our sport at this time. The XC Community is working well, and more people are seeing the road forward of how to be successful in this sport. We have had good attendance these days here in Park City. We still need to encourage more women to join our ranks.

This year has also been a ground breaking year in cross-country's participation and contribution in the USSA organization beyond the athletic side. This is and will be an important component in our sport's expansion domestically and internationally. Our National XC operations are spending around \$1 million dollars. We are now starting to bring more dollars into the program; we can especially highlight the Friends of Cross-country (FoXC) campaign which proved that XC people are interested in supporting their sport.

The USSA Foundation is looking out for the well-being and future of our snow sports. This group has for the first time arranged VIP trips to international Nordic and XC events, showcasing the excitement of our sport to vital members of our organization and its main supporters. We have also seen direct XC participation in our Foundation; this is extremely encouraging from a fund raising point of view, but also in the effort of showing initiative, bringing in new ideas, and bringing the XC voice forward in more places that matter. If organization-building and support functions have been less attractive in the XC community in the past, we have now broken that barrier and will look at new ideas and types of participation in which the XC community will take part. We need to bring our voice and needs forward to be a viable player in the snow sport picture.

Finally, once again thank you to all the people participating here this week, and everyone around the country, for bringing our sport forward and bringing athletic performance and the overall quality of our sport to a higher level.

## 2. Roll Call

The following Committee members were recognized as being present:

Jon Engen	Chairman	(Term limit: Spring '10)
John Farra	USSA	(Term limit: by employment)
Patrick Casey	Athlete	(Term limit: Spring '09)
John Callahan	Coaches/Mountain	(Term limit: Spring '09)
Joey Caterinichio	Alaska	(Term limit: Spring '09)
Andrew Gerlach	At-Large	(Term limit: Spring '09)
Bob Gross	Officials	(Term limit: Spring '09)
Yuriy Gusev	Central	(Term limit: Spring '09)
Rick Kapala	Intermountain	(Term limit: Spring '10)
Nina Kempel	Athlete	(Term limit: Spring '10)
Janice Sibilis	East	(Term limit: Spring '09)
Bill Sterling	Pacific	(Term limit: Spring '09)
August Teague	At-Large	(Term limit: Spring '09)
Matt Whitcomb	USSA	(Term limit: by employment)
Patrick Weaver	Athlete	(Ex-officio, AAC)
Vacant	Athlete	(Term limit: TBD)

Mr. Engen declared a quorum and called for nominations for opening seats and for term limit extensions for respective committee members.

Upon a motion made by Matt Whitcomb and seconded by John Callahan, Jon Engen was **re-elected** to a two-year term as Cross Country Committee Chairman.

Upon a motion made by Patrick Casey and seconded by Matt Whitcomb, Bob Gross was **re-elected** as the Chair of the Cross Country Officials' Subcommittee for a one-year term.

Upon a motion made by Andrew Gerlach and seconded by August Teague, John Callahan was elected as Chair of the Cross Country Coaches' Subcommittee replacing Rick Kapala whose term has expired.

The Committee **renewed** Nina Kempel's and Rick Kapala's terms until Spring of 2010.

## 3. Additions to the Agenda

No additions to the agenda were presented.

## 4. Approval of Minutes, Congress '07

The minutes of the 2007 Congress were distributed one month prior to the meeting, and on a motion from Rick Kapala and a second from Andrew Gerlach, the minutes were **approved**.

## 5. Reports and Proposals from Officials' Subcommittee

Bob Gross presented the proposals from the Officials' Subcommittee:

- Subcommittee members are Bob Gross, Jim Rodrigues, Carlie Casey, Scott Wilson, John Estle and Sally Jones.

- Proposed Revision to USSA Rule 352.1.1 For all competitions listed in the FIS Calendar, and all sprint qualifiers, electronic timing must be used. A start wand, and photo cell must be used in individual starts and all sprint qualifiers. For other USSA NRL races, electronic timing with a start wand must be used. A photo cell and/or plungers must be used for the finish. A photo finish camera using at least 1,000 frames per second may be substituted for the photo beam. Timing chips may be used for skier identification and intermediate timing. Electronic timing will always be supplemented by hand timing as a backup system and the results cross-checked between the two systems. Motion to accept made by Bob Gross, second by Andy Gerlach. Comment by John Callahan; no wand necessary in Mass Start events. **Approved.**
- The following standards were proposed for the Homologation Committee to be used as guidelines in addition to the FIS guidelines. These will be included in the Comp Guide.
  - a) Stadium sufficient for proposed events (mass start, teamsprint, relay, individual starts, pursuit).
  - b) Course width according to homologation standards ICR 313.1.4.
  - c) Hill location and height may vary 5-10% less than homologation standard for distance races.
  - d) Sprint should be close to FIS standards – 2 hills important – climbs within 10%.

Motion to accept made by Bob Gross, second by Pat Cote. **Approved.**

- Proposal: TDs and Assistant TDs will be assigned by the officials' committee assignments group for Nationals and Junior Nationals. NCAA National Championship assignment will be in conjunction with the NCAA. Jury members will be assigned regionally in conjunction with TD and organizer and must be at least a level 2 USSA TD. Expenses for TD and Assistant TD will be travel, room and board. The Jury Member will be provided with room and board. A means of local transportation will be provided for the TD. The TD will be paid \$50 per day from start of training to last day of competition. For NCAA, expenses will be as per NCAA rules. Wherever possible, the TD shall be from out of the region and the Assistant TD shall be from the region. Motion to accept made by Bob Gross, second by Andy Gerlach. Comment by August Teague; NCAA is worried about not being involved in the choice of TD. The proposal was adjusted to add "In conjunction with NCAA". The proposal was restated. Motion to accept made by Bob Gross, second by Nina Kempel. **Approved.**
- Bob Gross commented that we need to add some younger TD's to the mix including more women. Efforts should be made to encourage post-collegiate athletes into the TD arena.
- Bob Gross commented that we had good representation at the FIS Homologation seminar. This group of participants created a Homologation group which is available for regional work/consultation. The group is pleased with the progress of US Cross Country venues.
- Bob Gross commented that Terry Tansey was elevated from Level 2 to Level 3 TD, while Joey Caterinichio was elevated from Level 1 to Level 2. Lori Gates and Mary Pelto have both retired.
- Finally, he reported the TD assignments for the 2008-2009 season are:

*U.S. Cross Country Championships, Anchorage, AK*  
 TD – Al Serrano                      Asst. TD – Kent Slaughter

*U.S. Cross Country Long Distance Championships, Location TBD*  
 TD – John Estle                      Asst. TD – TBD

*USSA Junior Olympics*

TD – Scott Wilson

Asst. TD – Carlie Casey

Jury member – Joey Caterinichio

*NCAA Championships*

TD – Jim Tervo

Asst. TD – Bill Rodgers

## 6. Reports and Proposals from Coaches' Subcommittee

Rick Kapala made the following proposals:

- Subcommittee membership includes; Pat Casey, Joey Caterinichio, John Callahan, Bill Sterling, Janice Sibilia, Yuriy Gusev, Andy Gerlach, August Teague, Rick Kapala, Nina Kempel, John Farra, Matt Whitcomb, Eli Brown, Scott Jerome, Bryan Fish, Ben Husaby, Reid Lutter, Chris Grover, Alison Deines, Pete Phillips, Pete Vordenberg, Eric Flora, Will Sweetser, Sverre Caldwell, Fredrick Landstedt, Cory Schwartz, Sten Fjeldheim, Eileen Carey.
- Proposal to allow the National Championship Organizing Committee to assess a \$35 fee for an Event Coaches' Credential. Coaches' credentials may be sold only to licensed USSA coaches. Motion to accept made by Rick Kapala, second by Andy Gerlach. **Approved.**
- Amendments proposed to the Junior Olympic Rules

76.4.1 A skier represents the District or Division in which they reside. Only athletes currently enrolled in a college/university may choose to compete in either the division of their primary residency or the division in which their college/university is located. All divisional eligibility issues are to be arbitrated by the USSA Nordic Director"

76.4.3 A US citizen who resides outside of the United States may qualify for Junior Nationals by achieving top twenty on the junior ranking list at the Senior National Championships. This skier has the right to participate at Junior Nationals as an independent athlete but may not represent a division for the purpose of scoring Alaska Cup points. They may also participate in a divisional Junior National qualification series of their choosing as an alternative method of qualification. If qualifying through this method, a skier may represent only that division at Junior Nationals for the purpose of scoring the Alaska Cup.

### 82.3 Structure of classes

82.3.1 In the qualification round, classes will be seeded according to age class OJ, J1, and J2.

82.3.2 The start order of the OJ and J1 classes will be seeded based on the NRL points; lowest points (best skier) will start first. Skiers without points will be assigned random draw and placed behind the seeded skiers.

### 82.3.3 Structure of classes

82.3.4 The order the classes/genders will be same in both qualifying round and the elimination round.

82.4.5 The start order of the genders will alternate from year to year.

82.4.6 Order of classes in elimination and qualifying is run as follows:

Even Number Years: J2B,G; J1B,G; OJB,G

Odd Number Years: OJB,G; J1B,G, J2B,G

Each class bracket will be run to completion

#### 82.3.7 Strike

Strike 82.4.1 through 82.5.6 to be replaced with:

82.4 Junior National Sprint Event Management will be in accordance with FIS ICR 360.

82.4.1 Determination of 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked competitor (lucky loser) position will be assigned according to lowest bib number method. Timing will not be used to determine ranking of 3<sup>rd</sup> place competitors

83.3.8 Normal start order for interval start races other than the sprint will be 3, 4 (red), 2, 1, 0

83.3.9 The Jury will seed the red group in the most advantageous start position. The competition Jury may alter the start of the groups if conditions warrant the change.

83.3.10 Strike current rule:

Replace with: 83.3.10 Any competitor who finishes in the top 10 of their respective age classes who was not previously seeded in the red group will be seeded immediately behind the red group for the mass start and or individual race.

J2 Seeding:

83.6.2.1 When a skier who has not started in the sprint and that skier is substituted into an earned start position in the mass start that division's other skiers are relegated to their division's next earned slot in the same order in which those divisional skiers finished the sprint. Substitutions must be submitted according to the OC entry requirements

Relay:

84.11 A guest class team may be treated as a Division/District and assigned its own lane to be determined by the Jury

84.12 Replace with: In order to identify an OJ versus a J1 skier. Race Organizers will differentiate between the classes by assigning respectively 2 and 3 digit bibs to J1 and OJ teams. Example: OJ Bib #223 and J1 #23.

85.1.2 Amend First sentence to read "..... responsibility of the jury".

85.2 USSA Commercial markings' regulations may apply as to be determined by the USSA Event director.

85.6.1 Strike all and replace with "Jury may recommend a rearrangement of the competition program".

86.1 Any US Citizen finishing in the top ten of any individual event will be recognized as All American.

86.1 The top three teams in each relay class will be recognized as All American.

90.2.4: A given skier may only represent one club team during the course of the competitive season.

103.1 "125" to Read "\$150"

Motion to accept all Junior Olympic rule change proposals made by Andy Gerlach, second by John Callahan. **Approved**

- Discussion ensued regarding the need to accurately transfer these rules into the comp guide. All agreed.
- Proposed adjustment of the SuperTour Maximum entry fee structure affecting an OC who holds more than one SuperTour event. Change maximum to be:

1 Race	\$35
2 Race	\$60
3 Race	\$85
4 Race	\$105
5 Race	\$125

SuperTour Regulations retain the following language of \$10 max late fee per race, no earlier than one week prior to the event.

Comments by John Callahan who wants some consideration related to SuperTour fees as they relate to popular races like the Birkie and the Owl Creek Chase. John Farra agreed to research this issue.

Motion to accept made by Andy Gerlach, second by Janice Sibilia. **Approved.**

- A proposal was made to further develop and endorse the "National College Cup" at US National Championships – Short Distance. A college coach's oversight committee will develop a scoring system and the same committee will complete scoring at Nationals. The Nationals OC will recognize the winning College Cup Team at the National Championship Final Awards Ceremony.

Motion to accept made by Nina Kemppe, second by Andy Gerlach. **Approved.**

- Proposal to change the how the Super Tour sprint events will utilize the following Prize Money Schedule to the following:

\$250 – Fastest Overall Prelim Qualifier/both genders

1 through 10 Final Placing Prize Money Schedule as currently allocated.

We will no longer offer a U23 bonus of \$250 for either gender in the Super Tour events.

Motion to accept made by Andy Gerlach, second by Matt Whitcomb.

Comment by Yuriy Gusev, does not affect distance events. Comment by Nina Kemppe, needs more clarification. Rick provided more detailed clarification. **Approved.**

- Working groups needed to continue work on the following. Chairs named:
  1. Continue investigating alternative criteria for JWC qualification – Matt Whitcomb
  2. Oversee the design of a SuperTour Team Cup – Yuriy Gusev
  3. Oversee the development of a standard results' template – Andy Gerlach
  4. Examine Junior Nationals' Quota system – Joey Caterinichio
- Other issues discussed & agreed upon:

1. All bids for the 2011 JOs need to be in the USSA office by 9/1/08.
2. Awarding of the 2011 JO site needs to be completed by 11/1/08.
3. If there is no acceptable bid by 11/1/08 we will advance in the rotation.
4. Bid for the 2012 JOs is due by 1/1/09 by the Mountain Division.
5. NRL calendar dates due by 6/1/08.
6. Short Distance Nationals distance and discipline decision due by 6/1/08.
7. The decisions related to US Nationals' sites need to be completed by Jan 1<sup>st</sup> each year.

– Other final comments:

Related to the calendar, the question was raised if there were too many Team Sprint events in the 2008-2009 draft calendar. There was also a request to add more distance races to the calendar by Andy Gerlach.

## **7. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place in May 12-17, 2009 in Park City.

## APPENDIX I

### 2008-2009 USSA XC CALENDAR DRAFT

Date	Location	Comments
Nov. 28-29	West Yellowstone, MT	SuperTour 10/15 C, 5/10km F
Dec. 2 (Tues)	Bozeman, MT	SuperTour Sprint F
Dec. 6, 7	Soldier Hollow, UT	SuperTour Sprint C, 10/15km F
Dec 11, 13, 14	Whistler, BC	NOR-AM 10/15km C, Sprint C, 10/20km Pursuit
Jan. 3-8	Anchorage, AK	U.S. Short Distance Nationals – SuperTour Day 1: 10/15km F Day 3: Sprint C Day 5: 5/10km C Day 6: Team Sprint F
Jan. 16-17 (Fri – Sat)	Aspen, CO	SuperTour 5/10km C, 21/21km F mass-start,
Jan. 24-25	Mt. Itasca, MN	SuperTour/Midwest Grand Prix 10/10km C, 10/10km F
Jan. 28 Jan. 31-Feb. 1	Telemark, WI	SuperTour/Midwest Grand Prix Sprint F (Duluth) 5/10km C, 10/15km F mass-start
Feb. 4 (Wed) Feb 7-8	NENSA Rumford, ME Stowe, VT	SuperTour Sprint C SuperTour 5/10km F, 10/15km C
Feb. 14-15	Madison, WI	SuperTour/Midwest Grand Prix Team Sprint F, Team Sprint C, US 100
Feb. 21	Hayward, WI	American Birkebeiner / SuperTour 52km F mass-start
Mar. 9-14	Truckee, CA	Junior Olympics
Mar. 11-14	Rumford, ME	NCAA Championships
Mar. 7-15	Duntroon, Ontario	Canadian Nationals
Mar. 27-29	Tbd	U.S. Distance Nationals - SuperTour Finals Mar. 27: Pursuit Mar. 29: 30/50km C mass-start

#### National Calendar Distribution (not including JOs, NCAAs and Canadian Nationals)

8 freestyle distance competitions  
 8 classic distance competitions  
 4 freestyle sprint competitions  
 3 classic sprint competitions  
 2 pursuit competition  
 1 freestyle team sprint  
 2 classic team sprint

## APPENDIX II

### USSA 2009 JUNIOR SCANDINAVIAN CUP TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

1. **USSA POLICY**

This team selection criteria shall be principally objective (or performance-based), coaches' discretion must be limited to no more than twenty-five percent (25%) of total team size, and that available start rights and team spots will not necessarily be filled.

2. **TEAM SIZE**

A maximum of twelve (12) athletes (6 per sex) may represent the United States in the 2009 Junior Scandinavian Cup.

3. **START RIGHTS**

Up to six (6) male and six (6) female athletes may start for the United States in each event.

4. **ELIGIBILITY FOR CONSIDERATION**

USSA will consider for selection only those USSA members in good standing with valid U.S. passports, and born in 1991 or later. An athlete shall be ineligible for consideration if he/she is not fit to compete at the time selections are made due to any injury or illness from which he/she is not expected to recover adequately by the time of the Junior Scandinavian Cup.

5. **TEAM SELECTION PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA**

The USSA Development staff is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the oversight of the Nordic Director of USSA. In order to ensure that the United States fields a representative team, team size shall consist of six (6) athletes per sex. Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in the men's 10km, 15km and Sprint competitions (including junior finals if applicable), and women's 5km, 10km and Sprint competitions (including junior finals if applicable) at the 2009 U.S. Cross Country Championships, tentatively scheduled for Jan. 3-8, 2009 (the "selection period"). Discretionary selections, if any, may be based on a variety of factors, including competitions conducted outside of the selection period.

**(a) Coaches' Discretion.** USSA may select up to three (3) athletes to the team using coaches' discretion. The total number of discretionary selections made by the coaching staff shall be no more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the maximum team size described in paragraph 2 above. If the coaching staff fills any available spot(s) on the team with discretionary selections, then the staff may consider any factors including (but not limited to) the following:

- 1) Outstanding competition results (including results achieved outside of the selection period).
- 2) Recent direction or trend of competition results (i.e., improving, flat, or declining).
- 3) Attitude and commitment of athletes.
- 4) Physical fitness level.
- 5) Illness or injury during the selection period.
- 6) Indicia of medal potential in future Olympic or World Championship competition, which would be materially enhanced by selection to team.
- 7) Other unanticipated failure of objective criteria to select an athlete likely to achieve competition results consistent with USSA program goals for the Junior Scandinavian Cup.

**(b) Objective Criteria.** Up to six (6) athletes per gender shall be selected to the team based solely upon their competition results during the selection period. Team selections up to the maximum team size shall be granted to athletes who have achieved the best cumulative total results during the selection period based on a competitor's best two races (scoring only competitors born in 1991 or later), using the World Cup scoring system outlined in the USSA Competition Guide. Ties will be broken according to the following:

- Highest single finish during the selection period
- Second highest single finish during the selection period
- Third highest single finish during the selection period
- Fourth highest single finish during the selection period
- Lowest USSA Points in an event

## APPENDIX III

### USSA 2009 CROSS COUNTRY WORLD JR. CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

**1. USSA POLICY**

USSA policy mandates that World Championship and Olympic team selection criteria shall be principally objective (or performance-based), that coaches' discretion must be limited to no more than twenty-five percent (25%) of total team size, and available start rights and team spots will not necessarily be filled.

**2. TEAM SIZE**

The team selected by USSA may consist of any number of athletes up to the quota set by the International Ski Federation (FIS).

**3. START RIGHTS**

Up to four (4) male and four (4) female athletes may start for the United States in each event.

**4. ELIGIBILITY FOR CONSIDERATION**

USSA will consider for selection only those USSA members in good standing with valid U.S. passports, who meet FIS minimum eligibility standards. An athlete shall be ineligible for consideration if he/she is not fit to compete at the time selections are made due to any injury or illness from which he/she is not expected to recover adequately by the time of the Junior World Championships.

**5. TEAM SELECTION PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA**

The USSA Development staff is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the oversight of the Nordic Director of USSA. In order to ensure that the United States fields a representative team, minimum team size shall consist of five (5) athletes per gender. Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in SuperTour competitions held between January 7 and December 24, 2008, and in the men's 10km, 15km and Sprint (including Junior Finals, if applicable) competitions and women's 5km, 10km and Sprint (including Junior Finals, if applicable) competitions at the 2009 U.S. Cross Country Championships, tentatively scheduled for Jan. 3-9, 2009 (the "selection period"). Discretionary selections, if any, may be based on a variety of factors, including competitions conducted outside of the selection period.

**(a) Coaches' Discretion.** USSA may select up to four (4) athletes to the team using coaches' discretion. The total number of discretionary selections made by the coaching staff shall be no more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the team size described in paragraph 2 above. If the coaching staff fills any available spot(s) on the team with discretionary selections, then the staff may consider any factors including (but not limited to) the following:

- 1) Outstanding competition results (including results achieved outside of the selection period).
- 2) Recent direction or trend of competition results (i.e., improving, flat, or declining).
- 3) Attitude and commitment of athletes.
- 4) Physical fitness level.
- 5) Illness or injury during the selection period.
- 6) Indicia of medal potential in future Olympic or World Championship competition, which would be materially enhanced by selection to team.
- 7) Other unanticipated failure of objective criteria to select an athlete likely to achieve competition results consistent with USSA program goals for the Junior World Championships.

**(b) Objective Criteria.**

- 1) Up to two (2) athletes per gender shall be selected to the team based solely upon their SuperTour results (FIS points) between January 7 and December 24, 2008. Male athletes achieving a FIS point result under 80 FIS points in a SuperTour distance race, or under 90 FIS points in a SuperTour sprint race, and female athletes achieving a FIS point result under 90 FIS points in a SuperTour distance race, or under 100 FIS points in a SuperTour sprint race between January 7 and December 24, 2008 shall be selected to the team, unless application of this criterion would result in a total of more than two (2) objective selections per gender, in which case USSA shall use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order:
  - Best FIS points in a SuperTour (held between January 7 and December 24, 2008)
  - Second best FIS points in a SuperTour competition (held between January 7 and December 24, 2008)
  - Third best FIS points in a SuperTour competition (held between January 7 and December 24, 2008)

- Fourth best FIS points in a SuperTour competition (held between January 7 and December 24, 2008)
- 2) USSA shall ensure that it fields a representative team by selecting as many additional athletes as may be necessary to bring the total team size up to, but not limited to, five (5) athletes per gender based on the best cumulative total results of an athlete's best two U.S. Cross Country Championship races during the selection period, as indicated above, using the World Cup scoring system outlined in the USSA Competition Guide. The tie-breaking procedure is also outlined in the USSA Competition Guide.

## APPENDIX IV

### USSA 2009 U23 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CROSS COUNTRY TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

1. **USSA POLICY**

USSA policy mandates that World Championship team selection criteria shall be principally objective (or performance-based), that coaches' discretion must be limited to no more than twenty-five percent (25%) of total team selected, and that available start rights and team spots will not necessarily be filled.

2. **TEAM SIZE**

The team selected by USSA may consist of any number of athletes up to the quota set by the International Ski Federation (FIS).

3. **START RIGHTS**

Up to four (4) athletes may start for the United States in each event.

4. **ELIGIBILITY FOR CONSIDERATION**

USSA will consider for selection only those USSA members in good standing with valid U.S. passports and a valid FIS license who have met FIS minimum eligibility standards (currently, athletes born in 1986 or later). An athlete shall be ineligible for consideration for team selection or start rights if he/she is not fit to compete at the time selections are made due to any injury or illness from which he/she is not expected to recover adequately by the time of the 2009 U23 Championships.

5. **TEAM SELECTION PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA**

The USSA Development Coach is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the approval of the Nordic Director of USSA. Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in National Championship competitions held between January 3-8, 2009 (tentative), World Cup competitions held between October 1 and December 21, 2008, and SuperTour competitions held between January 7 and December 24, 2008 (the "objective selection period"). Discretionary selections, if any, may be based on a variety of factors.

(A) **Objective Criteria.**

1) Up to six (6) athletes per gender shall be selected to the team based solely upon their World Cup competition results during the objective selection period. Athletes finishing in the top-30 of an individual event shall be selected to the team, unless application of this criterion would result in a total of more than six (6) selections per gender, in which case USSA shall use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order:

- Most World Cup points.
- Lowest current USSA National Ranking List points.

2) Up to two (2) athletes per gender shall be selected to the team based solely upon their SuperTour competition results (FIS points) held during the objective selection period. Male athletes achieving a FIS point result under 70 FIS points in a distance race, or under 95 FIS points in a sprint race, and female athletes achieving a FIS point result under 105 FIS points in a distance race, or under 125 FIS points in a sprint race between January 7 and December 24, 2008 shall be selected to the team, unless application of this criterion would result in a total of more than six (6) objective selections per gender, in which case USSA shall use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order:

- Most World Cup points
- Best FIS points in a FIS competition specified by the objective selection period
- Second best FIS points in a FIS competition specified by the objective selection period
- Third best FIS points in a FIS competition specified by the objective selection period
- Fourth best FIS points in a FIS competition specified by the objective selection period

(B) **Coaches' Discretion.** If after application of the objective criteria described in section 5 A. team positions remain open, these positions may be filled at the discretion of the coaching staff. The number of individuals selected through coaches' discretion cannot exceed 25% of the total named team. If the coaching staff fills any available spots on the team using discretion, then the staff may consider any factors including, but not limited to, the following:

- 1) Outstanding competition results (including any results achieved outside of the selection period).

- 2) Recent direction or trend in competition results (i.e., improving, flat, or declining).
- 3) Attitude and commitment of athletes.
- 4) Physical fitness level.
- 5) Illness or injury during the selection period.
- 6) Indicia of medal potential in future Olympic or World Championship competition, which would be materially enhanced by selection to team.
- 7) Other unanticipated failure of objective criteria to select an athlete likely to achieve competition results consistent with USSA program goals for the U-23 Championships.

(C) **Representative Team Selections.** If fewer than five (5) athletes per gender are selected to the team based upon both the objective criteria listed above and coaches' discretion, then USSA shall ensure that it fields a representative team by selecting as many additional athletes as may be necessary to bring the total team size up to, but not limited to, five (5) athletes per gender based on the best cumulative total results of an athlete's best two individual U.S. Cross Country Championship races during the selection period, as indicated above, using the World Cup scoring system outlined in the USSA Competition Guide. The tie-breaking procedure is also outlined in the USSA Competition Guide.

## APPENDIX V

### USSA 2009 CROSS COUNTRY WORLD CUP TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

1. **USSA POLICY**  
USSA policy mandates that team selection criteria shall be principally objective (or performance-based) and that available start rights and team spots will not necessarily be filled.
  2. **TEAM SIZE**  
The team selected by USSA may consist of any number of athletes up to the FIS World Cup quota for the United States.
  3. **START RIGHTS:** The quota of start rights per nation is set annually by the FIS.
  4. **ELIGIBILITY FOR CONSIDERATION**  
USSA will consider for selection only those USSA members in good standing with valid U.S. passports and a valid FIS license, who meet FIS minimum eligibility standards. An athlete shall be ineligible for consideration if he/she is not fit to compete at the time selections are made due to any injury or illness from which he/she is not expected to recover adequately by the time of the World Cup competitions he/she has been selected for.
  5. **TEAM SELECTION PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA**  
The U.S. Ski Team Head Coach is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the oversight of the Chief Executive Officer and Nordic Director of USSA. No minimum team size will be established. Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in FIS competitions scored to the FIS points list, World Cup competitions held during the 2007/2008 and 2008/2009 seasons, and SuperTour competitions held between November 15, 2008 and January 9, 2009 (tentative, the "selection period"). Discretionary selections, if any, may be based on a variety of factors, including competitions conducted outside of the selection period.
    - (a) **Coaches' Discretion.** USSA may select athletes to the team using coaches' discretion. The coaching staff may make selections based upon factors other than the objective criteria, and if the coaching staff fills any available spot(s) on the team with discretionary selections, then the staff may consider any factors including (but not limited to) the following:
      - 1) Outstanding competition results (including results achieved outside of the selection period).
      - 2) Recent direction or trend of competition results (i.e., improving, flat, or declining).
      - 3) Attitude and commitment of athletes.
      - 4) Physical fitness level.
      - 5) Illness or injury during the selection period.
      - 6) Indicia of medal potential in future Olympic or World Championship competition, which would be materially enhanced by selection to team
      - 7) Other unanticipated failure of objective criteria to select an athlete likely to achieve competition results consistent with USSA program goals for World Cup.
    - (b) **Objective Criteria.** Additional athletes shall be selected to the team based solely upon their competition results during the selection period. Athletes meeting criteria (b) 1-2 shall be selected to the team, unless application of this criteria would result in a total team size exceeding the FIS quota, in which case USSA shall use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order:
      - (a) Most World Cup points on the most current World Cup ranking list used for selection
      - (b) Lowest current FIS points (sprint or distance, whichever is lower)
      - (c) Lowest current USSA points
1. Individuals who meet the following criteria will be selected to the World Cup Cross Country Team for World Cup Period 1 (tentatively October 24-December 21, 2008):
    - Attain a World Cup Overall or FIS Distance Points List international ranking in the top-50 at the conclusion of the 2007/2008 season.
    - Attain a World Cup Sprint or FIS Sprint Points List international ranking in the top 30 at the conclusion of the 2007/2008 season.
    - Attain a World Cup Distance ranking in the top-30 at the conclusion of the 2007/2008 season.

- Win the 2008 Overall SuperTour title.
2. Individuals who meet the following criteria will be selected to the World Cup Cross Country Team for World Cup Period 2 (January 15-February 14, 2009):
    - Attain a current World Cup Overall, Sprint World Cup, Distance World Cup or FIS points list ranking (sprint or distance) within the top-30 on the most current publication at the completion of World Cup Period 1 (tentatively scheduled for December 22, 2008).
    - The leaders of the Overall SuperTour classification (man and woman) on January 9, 2009.
    - USSA shall ensure that it will fill the distance quota set by FIS for the World Cup competitions in Canada by selecting - in rank order from the SuperTour distance overall classification on January 9, 2009 - as many additional athletes as may be necessary to fill that quota.
    - USSA shall ensure that it will fill the sprint quota set by FIS for the World Cup competitions in Canada by selecting - in rank order from the SuperTour sprint overall classification on January 9, 2009 - as many additional athletes as may be necessary to fill that quota.
  3. Attain a current World Cup Overall, Sprint World Cup, Distance World Cup or FIS points list ranking (sprint or distance) within the top-30 on the most current publication at the completion of World Cup Period 2 (tentatively scheduled for February 15, 2009).
    - Finish in the top-10 of an individual event in the World Cup competitions held in Canada January 15-17, 2009.
    - The leaders of the Overall SuperTour classification (man and woman) on January 26, 2009 will be able to start in the World Cup competitions from March 7-14, 2009.
    - The leaders of the Distance and Sprint SuperTour classifications (men and women) on January 26, 2009 will be able to start in the World Cup competitions from March 7-14, 2009.

## APPENDIX VI

### USSA 2009 CROSS COUNTRY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

**1. USSA POLICY**

USSA policy mandates that World Championship and Olympic team selection criteria shall be principally objective (or performance-based), that coaches' discretion must be limited to no more than twenty-five percent (25%) of total team selected, and that available start rights and team spots will not necessarily be filled.

**2. TEAM SIZE**

In order to ensure that the United States fields a representative team, minimum selected team size shall consist of five (5) athletes per gender.

**3. START RIGHTS**

Up to four (4) athletes may start for the United States in each event. Athletes who qualify for the team via criteria 5.A will be guaranteed at least one start, if healthy according to paragraph 7, the event to be determined at the discretion of the Head Coach. All other start rights will be determined by the discretion of the Head Coach.

Coaches' Discretion in determining start positions shall include the following considerations:

- A. Previous performances during the last World Championships.
- B. Previous performances in similar competitions during the selection period.
- C. Physical fitness level and level of preparation to compete as determined by training, prior competitions, time trials and training, and laboratory testing.

**4. ELIGIBILITY FOR CONSIDERATION**

USSA will consider for selection only those USSA members in good standing with valid U.S. passports and a valid FIS license who have met FIS minimum eligibility standards. An athlete shall be ineligible for consideration for team selection or start rights if he/she is not fit to compete at the time selections are made due to any injury or illness from which he/she is not expected to recover adequately by the time of the 2009 World Championships as verified by USSA Medical Staff. Such determination shall be at the discretion of the USSA Nordic Director, in consultation with the USSA Sports Science staff, the USSA Cross Country Head Coach, the Head Cross Country Physician, and the athlete's designated physician.

**5. TEAM SELECTION PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA**

The Head Coach is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the approval of the Chief Executive Officer and Nordic Director of USSA. Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in World Cup competitions held between October 1, 2008, and January 18 (tentative), 2009 (the "objective selection period"). Discretionary selections, if any, may be based on a variety of factors. Representative team selections, if any, shall be based on the USSA National Ranking List, developed from a competitor's best four (4) USSA scored competitions (in which he/she competed as a USSA member) within the twelve months preceding the date of closing of the selection list on January 9, 2009 (tentative) (the "representative selection period").

**(A) Objective Criteria.**

Up to eight (8) athletes per gender shall be selected to the team based solely upon their World Cup competition results during the objective selection period. Athletes ranking in the top 60 in the World Cup Overall, top 50 in the Distance World Cup standings or the top 50 in the Sprint World Cup standings as of Jan. 18, 2009 shall be selected to the team, unless application of this criterion would result in a total of more than eight (8) objective selections per gender, in which case USSA shall use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order:

- Most World Cup points in a discipline (distance or sprint)
- Lowest current FIS points.

A maximum of four athletes per gender may be selected according to the Sprint World Cup standings on Jan. 18, 2009.

**(B) Coaches' Discretion.** If after application of the objective criteria described in section 5 A. team positions remain open, these positions may be filled at the discretion of the coaching staff. The number of individuals selected through coaches' discretion cannot exceed 25% of the total named team. If the coaching staff fills any available spots on the team using discretion, then the staff may consider any factors including, but not limited to, the following:

- 1) Outstanding competition results (including any results from the 2007/08 and 2008/09 seasons).

- 2) Recent direction or trend in competition results (i.e., improving, flat, or declining).
- 3) Attitude and commitment of athletes.
- 4) Physical fitness level.
- 5) Illness or injury during the selection period.
- 6) Indicia of medal potential in future Olympic or World Championship competition, which would be materially enhanced by selection to team.
- 7) Other unanticipated failure of objective criteria to select an athlete likely to achieve competition results consistent with USSA program goals for World Championships.

All discretionary selections will be documented and appropriate forms will be available for record keeping purposes. A discretionary selection review group comprised of the President and CEO, the Nordic Director, and the athlete representative from that sport, who is a member of the USSA Board, will review all discretionary selections. If the USSA Board Athlete Representative is also a currently competing athlete then another athlete, who is not actively competing, will be selected by the Athletes' Council to be the representative in this group.

**(C) Representative Team Selections.** If fewer than five (5) athletes per gender are selected to the team based upon both the objective criteria listed above and coaches' discretion, then USSA shall ensure that it fields a representative team by selecting as many additional athletes as may be necessary to bring the total team size up to, but not limited to, five (5) athletes per gender, using the USSA National Ranking List (based on results during the representative selection period). Representative team selections shall be granted to those athletes with the best rankings on the Jan. 10, 2009 (tentative) updated USSA points list, in order, until a representative team is filled.

**6. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SELECTIONS**

Selections to the 2009 World Championship team shall be announced on January 16, 2009 (tentative) at the offices of USSA in Park City, Utah and shall be published immediately upon announcement.

**7. ATHLETE REPLACEMENT PROCEDURE**

In the case that an athlete who has been selected to the team becomes injured or ill prior the World Championships and is unable to compete, no replacement athlete will be named unless it is deemed that there is sufficient time to make a replacement without disrupting the competition or preparation of other athletes and that the additional athlete would have sufficient time to properly prepare for the competition. The USSA Nordic Director will make this decision after consulting with the President and CEO of USSA, Head Coach, and the USSA Sport Science Department. Should an additional athlete be considered, the procedures as outlined in Section 5.B. above will be followed to select that athlete. No athletes will be named to the team following the conclusion of mandatory training or within five days of the start of the World Championships.