

CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE MINUTES

USSA CONGRESS 2009 - PARK CITY, UT

May 16, 2009

Chair: Jon Engen

1. Chairman's Introduction – Jon Engen

Jon Engen opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, and thanked everyone who contributes to cross-country skiing at this time.

A special thank you to all who show up here; thanks to Bob Gross and Rick Kapala for running well organized meetings, and thanks to John, Pete, Pat and Matt for their work and presentations here this week.

Special Congratulations go to our top athlete, Kikkan Randall, who produced the first World Championship medal since 1982, to Kris Freeman who was as close to the podium as one can be, and other athletes posting fine results.

Let us reflect on some significant perspectives at this time:

- This week, professionals from our central program have presented substantial performance, development and education plans in the meetings; we didn't have such staff and no such plans just a few short years ago. These are results of the investment and continuity of our national programs, and we clearly see the effects from those efforts throughout our community.
- Equally energetic are our club and regional programs. We see club leaders presenting impressive, progressive development strategies, clubs are competing for the rights to host events, and the bar is raised across the board within our XC community.
- You, the current leaders in our sport, are truly changing the culture of US cross-country.
- As we see higher standards and emphasis on elite development, it is also important that we as club leaders ensure that we have programs for broader groups of our sport. We need people in many levels and interests in order to make our sport grow.
- We need to promote and motivate leadership throughout the organization, including these committees. We especially encourage women to get involved.

It was nice that so many of you had the chance to attend this year's Chairman's Awards Banquet; we once again saw a lot of attention directed towards Nordic skiing and we are riding on that momentum.

We are heading into an Olympic year; we wish the very best for our top performers and expect a huge source of inspiration for our aspiring athletes.

The Center of Excellence is now complete and will represent a huge asset for top performance, development and educational activities for our programs. XC has supported this project from its inception and we can assure every skeptic that the facility is constructed with monies generated outside the athletic program funding.

We extend a final special thanks to the group exploring the Business Development/Cross-country Promotion Subcommittee and hope to get them on the road with additional wind in their sails after this congress.

2. Roll Call

The following Committee members were recognized as being present: Jon Engen, John Farra, Patrick Casey, Joey Caterinichio, Bob Gross, Yuriy Gusev, Nina Kemppele, Janice Sibilja, August Teague, Matt Whitcomb, Patrick Weaver

Excused: Rick Kapala, Andrew Gerlach, Bill Sterling, John Callahan

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

The committee reviewed the list of members of the Cross Country Sport Committee and approved the following committee members upon a motion made by Joey Caterinichio and seconded by Matt Whitcomb.

Jon Engen	Chairman	(Term limit: Spring '10)
John Farra	USSA	(Term limit: by employment)
Matt Whitcomb	USSA Development	(Term limit: by employment)
Rick Kapala	Coaches (IMD)	(Term limit: Spring '10)
Bob Gross	Officials	(Term limit: Spring '11)
Justin Easter	Mountain	(Term limit: Spring '11)
Joey Caterinichio	Alaska	(Term limit: Spring '11)
Yuriy Gusev	Central	(Term limit: Spring '11)
Janice Sibilja	East	(Term limit: Spring '11)
Ben Grasseschi	Pacific	(Term limit: Spring '11)
David Knoop	At-Large	(Term limit: Spring '11)
August Teague	At-Large	(Term limit: Spring '11)
Wendy Wagner	Athlete	(Term limit: Spring '11)
Nina Kemppele	Athlete	(Term limit: Spring '10)
Patrick Weaver	Athlete	(Ex-officio, AAC)

3. Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda were presented.

4. Approval of Minutes, Congress '08

The minutes of the 2008 Congress were distributed one month prior to the meeting, and on a motion from Joey Caterinichio and a second from Matt Whitcomb, 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, Matt Pauli and Sally Jones.
- Proposed to create a small working group of the Cross Country Officials Subcommittee. Three to four TDs and/or at-large personnel who have the authority to create some basic standards/protocols that will need to be followed by software programs and human XC race timers. In addition two USSA representatives (Nordic Program Director & USSA ranking lists manager) will also be on the committee. Motion to accept made by Bob Gross, second by Pat Casey. No discussion. **Approved**
- Proposal to change wording of the Competition Guide - Chapter 2 Points and Ranking-Race Results – Page 16-17~~Skiers must have a current FIS registration and their current FIS~~

~~code noted on the results to be scored on the FIS list, and USSA Registration and their current USSA membership number noted on the results to be scored to the NRL..... to the following language ...Skiers must be on the current USSA points lists (and FIS points list for FIS races) to score points in any sanctioned race.~~ Motion to accept made by Bob Gross, second by Justin Easter. No discussion. **Approved.**

- Proposal to change the method for scoring USSA sprint events. USSA sprint points will only be awarded based on the qualification round (as it is currently with FIS points). This will apply to all NRL, SuperTour and US Championships sprint events. Heats will determine event results, cash prizes and SuperTour points. Motion to accept by Bob Gross, second by Joey Caterinichio. No discussion. **Approved.**
- Proposed test events for 2010 season:
 - Mini-Distance/Prologue race for Women 2.5-3.3k and for Men 3.3-3.75k scored as a distance race only on the USSA NRL with an 800 F-value.
 - A sprint event which is only a sprint qualifier, it is then scored as a sprint race on the NRL for USSA points (FIS points subject to FIS approval).

Motion to accept both test events made by Bob Gross, second by Justin Easter. Discussion ensued to encourage limiting these test events to one for the 2010 calendar season. **Approved.**

- Proposal to change the wording of Rule 50.2.2. ~~Disabled competitors may be place in the Group C at the discretion of the disabled National Team Coach, and must be indicated to the race secretary 2 hours prior to the draw.~~ Proposed Rule 50.2.2 Adaptive skiers will be seeded at the discretion of the jury. Motion to accept by Bob Gross, second by Ben Grasseschi. No discussion. **Approved.**
- Review of Officials' expense reimbursement approved May 2008:

TDs and TDAs will be assigned by the officials' committee assignments group for US Championship events and JOs. NCAA Championship assignments 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 TDA will be travel, room and per diem. 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 the last day of competition. For NCAA Championships, expenses will be as per the NCAA rules. Wherever possible, the TD shall be from out of the region and the TDA shall be from the region.

- Proposed modifications/additions to the Officials' expense reimbursement:

The TDs and TDAs for SuperTour and USSA sanctioned races will be assigned by the Regional Coordinators. SuperTour TDs must be at least level 3 TDs. USSA sanctioned race TDs must be at least level 2 TDs. TDAs may be any level. TD will be paid \$50/day for official training days and each day of the event plus room, board and per diem. The TDA will receive room, board and per diem for SuperTour events. The rooms can be shared by the TDs and can be in a local house, if not shared with a family member. The number of days provided for the room can extend from the night before official training to the night of the last race day if needed.

Homologation inspector will be reimbursed the same as US Championship TDs and should receive \$50/day, room, board, and travel expenses.

Motion to accept by Bob Gross, second by August Teague. No discussion. **Approved.**

- TD assignments for the 2009-2010 season are tentatively:

U.S. Cross Country Championships, Anchorage, AK

TD – Matt Laue

Asst. TD – John Estle

USSA Spring Series and US Marathon Championship, Fort Kent/Madawaska, Maine

TD – Jack Jeffery

Asst. TD – Bill Rodgers

USSA Junior Olympics, Presque Isle, Maine

TD – Kent Slaughter

Asst. TD – Chuck Broomhall

NCAA Championships, Steamboat Springs, CO

TD – Pat Cote

Asst. TD – Bob Myers

6. Reports and Proposals from the Coaches' Subcommittee

Chair, Rick Kapala made the following proposals:

- Subcommittee membership includes; Pat Casey, Joey Caterinichio, John Callahan, Janice Sibilia, Yuriy Gusev, August Teague, Rick Kapala, 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.
- Super Tour Rule Proposals:
 - Skiers who do not make themselves available at the established SuperTour prize ceremonies forfeit prize money (unless previous arrangements are made with the organizer). Motion to accept made by Ben Grasseschi, second by Matt Whitcomb. **Approved.**
 - A USSA or FIS license is required at any US Championship event. Motion to accept made by Matt Whitcomb, second by Ben Grasseschi. **Approved.**
 - New SuperTour minimum prize money proposal was discussed at length to answer concerns by organizers. The proposal was \$750 1st, \$500 2nd, \$250 3rd, \$200 4th, \$150 5th, \$100 6th. Motion to accept made by Matt Whitcomb, second by Ben Grasseschi. **Approved.**
- Proposal to lower the women's NRL regional event scoring minimum to 85. Motion to accept made by Justin Easter, second by Matt Whitcomb. **Approved.**
- National Coaches' Education Conference, Sept 25-27, 2009 Minneapolis, voice endorsement.
- Endorsement of Soldier Hollow for 2012 Junior Olympics. Motion to accept made by August Teague, second by Matt Whitcomb. **Approved.**
- JWC/U23 selection criteria endorsed as stated in the proposed schedule with following amendment pre-qualification point standards - one point standard for sprint and distance

U23 men	55	U23 Women	75
JWC Men	80	JWC Women	90

Motion to accept made by August Teague, second by Matt Whitcomb. **Approved.**
- Proposal: Amend JWC/U23 selection criteria to state selections to occur within the timeframe of Jan 2-8, 2010. The intent is to allow modification of the schedule to accommodate unforeseen circumstances such as canceled events. In addition, include as automatic U23/JWC competitors with top 10 results from the previous year up to two per gender in criteria. Motion to accept made by Ben Grasseschi, second by Yuriy Gusev. **Approved.**

- U23, JWC, and WC selection criteria endorsed with approved amendments. Motion to accept made by Joey Caterinichio, second by Matt Whitcomb. **Approved.**
- Review of National Calendar (see Appendix I)
 - 1) Proposed modified US Championships event calendar, including splitting of Jr/Sr distances for the third distance race to allow for inclusion of longer senior distance events. The 20/30km distance race will be mass-start.
 - 2) Proposed SuperTour schedule as proposed by Farra.
 - 3) USSA Spring Series and US Marathon Championship schedule and modified prize schedule.

Motion to accept the National Calendar made by Ben Grasseschi, second by Matt Whitcomb. **Approved.**

- Proposed elimination of North American Marathon Cup concept and its prize money schedule. USSA will continue discussion with American Ski Chase for continued partnership opportunities to match up popular races with the USSA SuperTour. Motion to accept made by Ben Grasseschi, second by Nina Kempel. **Approved.**
- Proposal to endorse the development of the FoXC Business Subcommittee proposal by Dave Knoop, to include a vote on the Cross Country Sport Committee. Motion to accept made by Nina Kempel, second by Janice Sibilia. **Approved.**
- Proposal to support the effort to develop a National J2 Talent Camp initiative to be run by Chair, Rick Kapala. No motion deemed necessary. Voice vote of support unanimous.
- Proposal to endorse Joey Caterinichio's effort to review and update JO Rules with review by the Coaches' Sport Committee. Motion to accept made by Joey Caterinichio, second by Ben Grasseschi. **Approved.**
- Proposal to endorse the site for the 2011-2012 US Championships was tabled pending further review of concerns established by the Committee members. The USSA Nordic Program Director will do more research and communicate with the Committee.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place May 15, 2010 in Park City.

8. Adjournment of Committee

Motion to adjourn made by Joey Caterinichio, second by Matt Whitcomb. **Approved.**

APPENDIX I: 2009-2010 USSA XC CALENDAR DRAFT

Date	Location	Comments
Nov. 25, 27, 28	West Yellowstone, MT	SuperTour Opener - CL Sprint Qual 1.5km, 10/15km F, 5/10km C
Dec. 5-6	Bozeman, MT	SuperTour Sprint F & 10/15km C
Dec 12, 13	Vernon, BC	NOR-AM Distance C, Sprint F - NRL tentative
Dec 19, 20	Whistler, BC	NOR-AM Sprint C & Distance F - NRL tentative
Jan. 2-8	Anchorage, AK	U.S. CC Championships – SuperTour Jan 2: Sprint F Jan 4: 10/15km F Jan 6: 20/30 C MST (JR 5/10km C Ind. start) Jan 8: Sprint C
Jan. 15-16	Methow Valley	Methow SuperTour Sprint F & 10/15km C
Jan. 23-24	Minneapolis, MN	SuperTour/ Midwest Grand Prix 10/15km C MST, 5/10km F
Jan. 30-31	Telemark, WI	SuperTour/Midwest Grand Prix 5/10km C, 10/15km F mass-start
Feb 6-7	Canmore, AL	Canada World Cup - 10/15km F, Sprint C
Feb 13-14	Aspen, CO	ASPEN SuperTour & Owl Creek Chase events 5/10km C, 21km F
Feb 20-21	Madison, WI	Midwest Grand Prix Downtown Sprints Sprint C & 7.5/10km Criterion F
Feb. 27	Hayward, WI	American Birkebeiner - 52km F mass-start SuperTour
Mar. 1-Mar. 14	Central Europe	OPA Cup Races – scored to NRL
Mar. 8-13	Presque Isle, ME	Junior Olympics
Mar. 11-14	Steamboat Springs, CO	NCAA Championships
Mar. 14-21	Whitehorse, Yukon	Canadian Nationals
Mar. 24 (wed)	Fort Kent, ME	30/50km F US Marathon Championship
Mar. 26-28	Northern Maine	FIS/USSA Spring Series/SuperTour Finals Sprint F, 5/10km C, 5/7km F Hill Climb