

SKI JUMPING/NORDIC COMBINED SPORT COMMITTEE MINUTES USSA CONGRESS 2010 – PARK CITY, UT

The USSA Center of Excellence, 1 Victory Lane, Park City
May 14, 2010

Chair: Joe Holland

1. Roll Call & Confirmation of Committee Membership

The following members were present: Joe Holland, John Farra, Casey Colby, Dave Jarrett, Dan Warner, Todd Wilson, and Matt Laue

Absent and excused: Tim Tetreault

Chairman Joe Holland declared a quorum was present and opened the meetings.

2. Confirm Candidate(s) for At-Large Position Created Fall 2009

John Farra noted that an additional at-large position was added as per the wishes of the J/NC Sport Committee. To achieve this, one athlete representative position was cut and an at-large position was created allowing some flexibility on who fills that seat.

Dan Warner moved to nominate Blair Tomten to the open at-large position. Dave Jarrett seconded the motion. **APPROVED**

Matt Laue moved to remove Casey Colby from his current designation of athlete representative to fill the National coach representative position for Men's Ski Jumping, and to nominate Clint Jones as an athlete representative. Dan Warner seconded. **APPROVED**

It was noted during discussions that the athlete representatives should be retired from competition within a 10 year window. Current athletes would otherwise have the potential to be voting on issues that affect their competitive interests.

As an administrative note, it was pointed out that Dan Warner was appointed to complete Art Togle's term (5/2010) and that Jed Hinkley resigned as an athlete representative to allow the position to be reallocated to an at-large position.

3. Opening Comments by Chair

Mr. Holland mentioned the process in which he recently participated of identifying deserving nominees for the many awards presented by the USSA each year. He encouraged committee members to provide feedback throughout the year to make these nominees truly representative of the athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers that contribute to the success of the sport.

4. Additions to the Agenda

John Jacobs (Reliable Racing) was present to introduce his proposal to the U.S. Collegiate Ski Association to reinstitute ski-jumping and Nordic combined as competitive programs.

5. Approval of Minutes from USSA Spring Congress 2009

Dan Warner moved to approve the minutes of the Ski Jumping/Nordic Combined Sport Committee from USSA Spring Congress 2009. Casey Colby seconded the motion. **APPROVED**

6. Program Highlights from Coaches' Subcommittee Meeting

Nordic Combined - Dave Jarrett provided a highlight of the magical Olympic successes from Nordic Combined and outlined the strategic plan moving forward for the 2011 season.

Ski Jumping USA (Project X) - A summary was provided of the successes experienced for 2010, including qualifying three jumpers to the Olympic Games, and having all three qualify for the normal hill competition. Exciting progress and new energy is strong within the Jumping community to further support this critical program.

Women's Ski Jumping USA – Blair Tomten reported that the women's jump program experienced significant success during the 2010 season in the Continental Cup with these standings: Sarah Hendrickson 6th, Alissa Johnson 9th, Jessica Jerome 12th, Abby Hughes 25th.

At Junior World Championships, a team of Sarah Hendrickson, Nita Englund and Nina Lussi was fielded. Sarah took the 3rd place podium finish.

Kjell Magnusson has been signed to coach for another year. The team will be seeking a new coach for the 2011-12 season, as Kjell is evaluating other opportunities.

The team will be hosting a fundraiser next month in Park City.

Team tryouts for the 2011 season will be held in conjunction with U.S. Championships in Park City in July to increase the team number to the quota limit.

7. Domestic Calendar Report

Todd Wilson prefaced the discussion of the 2011 calendar with the request that planning and calendaring for the 2012 season begin this summer. All stakeholders – athletes, coaches, organizers and officials – would benefit from greater lead times and more certainty in the competition calendar.

Mr. Wilson suggested that the easiest way to approach scheduling was to prioritize with the highest profile events first, followed by the next tier of significance and then followed by regional and local events. Dave Jarrett commented that thought should be given to scheduling events first and then working with organizers that are available for those dates to develop proposals.

U.S. Championships are scheduled to be held in conjunction with the Springer Tournee in Park City, UT, July 26 - Aug 1, 2010.

North American Championships are scheduled to be held in conjunction with Junior World Trials in Ishpeming, MI, currently proposed for January 8-9, 2011. Discussion followed on the possibility of moving these competitions to the weekend before so that athletes are not missing an inordinate amount of school with Junior Worlds coming just three weeks later in Estonia. In addition, greater lead time would facilitate purchasing airfare given current TSA regulations that tickets must be purchased only in the name of the traveler. Matt Laue stated that what is best for athletes should be driving the schedule.

Approval for the location of Junior World Trials was tabled pending a discussion with organizers in Ishpeming regarding a date change. The Utah Olympic Park in Park City, UT and the Olympic

Jumping Complex in Lake Placid, NY went on record as being 1st alternate and 2nd alternate should the date change not work for organizers in Ishpeming. By consensus, June 1 was established as the deadline to resolve this scheduling issue.

Junior Olympics are scheduled to be in Salisbury, CT, February 23-26, 2011.

Steamboat Springs, CO will host a NC Continental Cup (COC) event December 4-5, 2010, pending funding issues. Utah Olympic Park and Soldier Hollow will host a NC COC event on December 11-12, 2010.

The National Ranking List competitions to date are attached and will be posted to the USSA website (www.USSA.org). Brattleboro, VT will host the final NRL February 19-20, 2011. The goal is to make this a FIS Cup event.

Note that the Canadians agreed to have the North American Championships in the U.S. this year. They will have the option in late March – early April 2011 to decide if they will host for the 2012 season.

8. Proposals and Report from Officials' Subcommittee and
9. Proposals and Report from Coaches' Subcommittee

Matt Laue prefaced his presentation of proposals and action items from the subcommittees by emphasizing the need for a computerized results package that would be used by all clubs to standardize the scoring and reporting for the jumping sports. In addition, he reported that all TD forms will be available on-line at the USSA website (www.USSA.org) on the Officials' Education page accessible from the drop-down box "Members."

Mr. Laue also reported that the Rule changes being proposed were, for the most part, minor edits. A significant amount of effort, however, will be focused on establishing a Hills Committee that will oversee documenting, inspecting and certifying hills used for competitions over a seven-year horizon. This will be an alternate level of approvals to that granted through FIS homologation. To facilitate the work, the TD Education Seminar this fall (Minneapolis, MN) will be held in conjunction with a FIS Homologation Seminar conducted by Yngve Thorsen from Norway.

Proposal from the Officials' Subcommittee: It is proposed at U.S. Championships and at U.S. Junior Olympics for Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined that the TD and the TDA will be paid \$50 per day and that each Judge will be paid \$25 day. This will start with the first day of official training and continue through the last day of competition.

Matt Laue moved that the proposal be approved. Dan Warner seconded. **APPROVED**

Proposal from the Officials' Subcommittee: It is proposed for Knowledge, Safety and Betterment of the sport of Ski Jumping that ALL ski jumping hills in the United States will be "Certified" by the year 2017 through the following process/definitions and schedule.

Process / Definitions

"Inspected": A jumping hill that has passed the USSA safety inspection (per safety inspection protocol).

"Surveyed": A jumping hill that has been surveyed (per survey protocol).

"Designed": A ski jumping hill that's profile is, at minimum, compliant to "FIS Norm 1996" with minor updates up to the "FIS Norm 2005" having a profile matching modern ski jumping after the introduction of V-style.

“Certified”: A jumping hill that is Inspected, Surveyed and Designed to the requirements listed above by the Officials' Sub-Committee Engineering Working Group Standards.

Schedule

- National Championship Hills shall be Certified by 2011-2012.
- Hills hosting National level events shall be Inspected by 2011-2012 and Certified by 2012-2013.
- All hills shall be Inspected by 2014-2015.
- All hills shall be Certified by 2017.

Matt Laue moved that the proposal be accepted. Dave Jarrett seconded. **APPROVED**

Action Item from the Officials' Subcommittee:

Update the J/NC TD report so it can be used on multiple days and for multiple events.

Action Item from the Officials' Subcommittee:

All Officials Education, Tools and Reports will be listed on the USSA website. All reports will be filed electronically.

Action Item from the Officials' Subcommittee:

Jarrett Moe will be raised to the level of National Level 3 TD and Judge for Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined.

Action Item from the Officials' Subcommittee:

Expand the current guidelines for Elimination Jumping Competitions in the USSA Nordic Comp Guide.

Action Item from the Officials' Subcommittee:

The following candidates for TD have been nominated:

- U.S. Championships—Dan Warner;
- Junior Olympic Championships—Keith Hanson, Dan Mattoon, Howard Jarrett.

Action Item from the Officials' Subcommittee:

Divisional Judges and the TDA named by the appropriate divisional officials' committees for U.S. Championships by June 1, 2010.

Action Item from the Officials' Subcommittee:

Divisional Judges and the TDA named by the appropriate divisional officials' committees for U.S. Junior Olympic Championships by December 1, 2010.

Action Item from the Officials' Subcommittee and the Coaches' Subcommittee:

A working group of Todd Wilson, Dan Warner, Jarrett Moe and Matt Laue are charged with looking into options for the creation of a USSA web-based results software package that will include the multitude of competition formats. The ideal package will have continuous upgrade and technical support, the ability to add on technical details required by larger competition formats. Part and parcel

of this results package is the inclusion of a USSA owned Video Distance Measuring package. The current possibilities that need to be looked at are Ztek-Reed Zuehlke, Split Second, Summit Timing-Ernie Paige, Ewoxx and Swiss Timing along with numerous additional other avenues. Possible grant money available from the USOC will be researched with the cooperation, help and expertise of John Farra and the USSA.

Action Item from the Officials' Subcommittee and the Coaches' Subcommittee:

Remove the current SuperTour Guidelines from the USSA Competition Guide. For the competition season 2010-2011 SuperTour will be used in name only to highlight events on the NRL for ski jumping.

Proposal from the Officials' Subcommittee and the Coaches' Subcommittee:

Change the following rule 125.3.1 as noted:

Junior 2: NC –Team SPRINT 1 jump and 2 x 1km x 3 (30 pts/min);
NC Individual Gundersen-2 jumps and 5km (~~15pts/min~~ 25 pts/min);

Rationale: The current format of 1 jump is used on the World Cup along with 15pts/min. It is felt at the J2 level and below that it is crucial to allow skiers the opportunity to take two jumps as is consistent with ski jumping during competitions for the added competition experience. By changing the points per minute to 25 for competitors competing in the J2 class will not so heavily weight the Jumping performance and encourage equality in the weight between Ski Jumping and Cross Country skiing in a Nordic Combined event with two jumps.

Todd Wilson moved that the proposal be approved. Dave Jarrett seconded. **APPROVED**

Proposal from the Officials' Subcommittee and the Coaches' Subcommittee:

Change the following rule 125.3.2 as noted:

Junior 1: NC –Team SPRINT 1 jump and 2 x 1km x 3 (30 pts/min);
NC Individual Gundersen- ~~2~~ 1 jump and 5km (15pts/min);

Rationale: To better prepare this age group for the possibility of National and International competition, it is felt that they should follow the current format used by FIS at World Junior Championships and higher-level competitions.

Todd Wilson moved that the proposal be approved. Dave Jarrett seconded. **APPROVED**

Action Item from the Officials' Subcommittee and the Coaches' Subcommittee:

Change the following rule 160.1 as noted:

Points per Meter, Timing and Start Formats

160 Points per Meter, Timing and Start Formats

160.1 The Jumping and Nordic Combined events will be run in accordance to current FIS rules (i.e. Number of jumps, distance of race, points per meter...)

160.1.1 For Nordic Combined Junior Events which are not listed in the FIS ICR please use the following

Race Distance	Points per Minute
1 km	37 40 pts / min
2 km	34 35 pts / min
3 km	26 30 pts / min
5 km	15/25 pts / min (1/2 jumps)

(If a division or club wants to try different points per minutes or start processes, that is fully acceptable and encouraged. The priority for the younger juniors is that this is fun. Those clubs/divisions that use alternate points per minutes or processes please report these back to USSA for future consideration.)

Matt Laue moved that the proposal be approved. Todd Wilson seconded. **APPROVED**

Proposal from the Officials' Subcommittee and the Coaches' Subcommittee:

Change the following rule 170.1 as noted:

170 Equipment

170.1 All USSA J2 athletes ~~and those competing in that class who are trying out for and competing at Junior Olympics~~ shall ~~follow Rule 4.1 per the FIS Youth Rules pertaining to Skiers~~ use a ski length of 143% of body height and no BMI. Exceptions to the rule are all athletes skiing in WJC Tryouts, NorAms, SuperTours and all other National level events (excluding JOs); those athletes will follow rules set forth by FIS in the Equipment Specifications Rule 1.2.1.1.

Rationale: Due to the current FIS proposal to possibly change to 140%, until the FIS Youth Committee settles on a percentage length, we should not change due to the possible costs associated with this to our junior skiers.

Todd Wilson moved that the proposal be approved. Casey Colby seconded. **APPROVED**

Action Item from the Coaches' Subcommittee:

Create a new Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined NRL Points List based on the current system FIS uses in other sports such as Cross Country skiing. It is with the future hope that this model will be used by FIS to create an international points ranking list for all Jumping & Nordic Combined athletes.

The following people have been assigned to the working group to create this system: Dave Jarrett, Lindsey Wert and Matt Laue along with expertise from John Farra and others from the Cross Country community.

Rationale: Previously we have used a National Ranking List that used a percent back and/or based on the SuperTour Points List. It is felt there is a better way to rank our skiers as many of our athletes do not compete in these current point competitions. The new system should allow ALL skiers to receive a National ranking by competing in the NRL competitions to be scheduled for 2010-2011.

Proposal from the Coaches' Subcommittee:

Athletes participating as member of the Junior Olympic Team in Nordic Combined and/or Ski Jumping shall be eligible to compete in the USSA Junior Olympics for Cross Country. Reciprocal rights shall be offered to Cross Country skiers should they want to participate in the J/NC Junior Olympics.

Rationale: Looking forward to 2012, Junior Olympics for all Nordic disciplines will be held in IMD. Under our current structure, this does not happen often and it would be a great opportunity for those Nordic Combined skiers who wish to compete in the Cross Country portion of JOs to do so. All disciplines need to see the athletes' true potential and encourage them to pursue what they excel at, notwithstanding a coach's preference.

Discussion: John Farra stated that, for races with interval starts or for relays, this represents no problem. In a mass start race, issues around seeding racers must be addressed by officials.

Dan Warner moved that the proposal be approved. Casey Colby seconded. **APPROVED**

Action Item from the Officials' Subcommittee and the Coaches' Subcommittee:

Insert into the USSA Competition Guide a "points per minute" chart for 15 pts/min, 25 pts/min, 30pts/min, 35 pts/min and 40 pts/min.

10. Replacement/Re-Nomination of Members with Expiring Terms

Casey Colby moved that Matt Laue, Todd Wilson and Dan Warner be nominated to serve an additional two-year term. Dave Jarrett seconded. **APPROVED**

New Jumping/Nordic Combined Sport Committee:

Joe Holland	Chairman	5/2011
John Farra	USSA Nordic Director	By employment
Tim Tetreault	Athlete	USSA BOD
Clint Jones	Athlete	5/2012
Dave Jarrett	National Coach, USST	By employment
Casey Colby	National Coach, SJUSA	5/2011
Dan Warner	Regional Rep, East	5/2012
Todd Wilson	Coaches' Sub-Committee	5/2012
Matt Laue	Officials' Sub-Committee	5/2012
Blair Tomten	At-Large	5/2012

11. Additions to the Agenda

John Jacobs is co-authoring a proposal with Daryl Landstrom, a Board Member of the U.S. Collegiate Ski Association (USCSA) to re-instate ski jumping and Nordic combined as competitive sports. Currently, all ski sports are included except for these two, which were dropped in 1976. The proposal will be presented to the organization in three weeks. Mr. Jacobs requests that all emails and endorsements of the idea be forwarded to him to assist in having the proposal approved. Mr. Jacobs also indicated that upon approval, USCSA would likely look to the J Jumping/Nordic Combined Sport Committee for help on calendaring, venues, governance, officiating and event organization.

John Farra closed the meeting by alerting members of upcoming international competitions:

World University Games – In Turkey this winter. Quota is 1 Nordic Combined athlete and 1 male and female ski jumper. USOC has handed the Games off to a for-profit organizer. Cost will be approximately \$3,500 per athlete, not including coaching. No USOC or USSA funding is available.

World Youth Olympics – In Innsbruck this winter. Quota is 1 Nordic Combined, 1 male and 1 female jumper and 1 male and 1 female cross country skier. Qualified athletes must have a birth date between January 1, 1995 and December 31, 1996 and have competed in an approved international event. Criteria will need to be created to establish eligibility.

12. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.