

## SKI JUMPING/NORDIC COMBINED SPORT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

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USSA CONGRESS 2011

The Park City Marriott, 1895 Sidewinder Drive, Park City, UT 84068

May 20, 2011

Chair: Joe Holland

### 1. Roll Call & Confirmation of Committee Membership

The following members were present: Joe Holland, John Farra, Willy Graves, Clint Jones, Casey Colby, Dave Jarrett, Dan Warner, Todd Wilson, Blair Tomten and Matt Laue

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

A moment of silence was held in remembrance of Doc Bland (Phillips T. Bland M.D.) who passed away earlier this year. "Doc was a long time, enthusiastic supporter of ski jumping through the Snowflake Ski Club in Westby, WI where he practiced medicine. In his middle years, he undertook ski jump designing, which he continued into his eighties. For a number of years, Doc was chairman of the USSA ski jump design committee and a member of the FIS Ski Jump Engineering Committee. He designed more than 30 ski jumping hills around the world, a self-taught avocation that developed out of a desire to reduce injuries in the sport."

### 2. Opening Comments

John Farra, USSA Nordic Director, thanked the members of the Ski Jumping/Nordic Combined Sport Committee for their commitment to improving the sports in the U.S. He stated that he was honored to work with such a dedicated group.

Joe Holland, Chair, remarked that his last ski jump was at the Holmenkollen in Oslo, NOR in 1992, its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. This January, he attended the FIS Nordic World Championships at the same venue. He was struck by the passion and energy of the fans he encountered. He said that passion and energy was likewise evident during these 2011 USSA Congress meetings. The Sport Committee needed to harness those emotions in moving forward with its work. He noted that a great deal of potential exists in winning more Olympic gold medals in ski jumping and nordic combined even in the face of limited financial resources, a huge return on investment.

### 3. Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

It was noted, though by John Jacobs (Reliable Racing) that the agenda addition he made last year for the proposal to the U.S. Collegiate Ski Association (USCSA) to reinstitute ski-jumping and nordic combined as competitive programs had been successful. The inaugural competition was held in March 2011. Willy Graves and Alissa Johnson were recognized as the collegiate champions.

### 4. Approval of Minutes from USSA Spring Congress 2010

Dan Warner moved to approve the minutes of the Ski Jumping/Nordic Combined Sport Committee from USSA Spring Congress 2010. Dave Jarrett seconded the motion. **APPROVED**

### 5. Highlights of Program Reports from the Coaches' Subcommittee Meeting and the Domestic Calendar Report.

Coaches' Subcommittee Chair, Todd Wilson, reported that representatives from all regions had been present for the Coaches' Meeting. Progress had been made on scheduling a FIS Cup competition in Brattleboro, VT in February 2012. Criteria for Junior World Championships and Continental Cup teams had been reviewed and approved. The first winter Youth Olympic Games were scheduled to be held in January 2012. The challenge of applying selection criteria was noted.

Mr. Wilson reported that discussions were getting closer on a National Ranking List for ski jumping. Casey Colby was identified as taking the lead on formulating a scoring system.

For Junior Nationals, changes were being proposed to the rules. The 2012 schedule was reviewed, as well as the proposal to hold championships in conjunction with cross country Junior Nationals. Nordic combined athletes would be invited to participate in cross country events.

A U.S. Championships plan was being proposed. Large Hill Championships were scheduled to be held July 30<sup>th</sup> at the Utah Olympic Park in conjunction with the Springer Tournée. Normal Hill and Nordic Combined Championships were scheduled to be held in Chicago, October 1-2, 2011.

A schedule for North American Junior Championships was proposed for January 1-3, 2012. The competition is scheduled to be held in Calgary, ALB. These jumps are also proposed to be the trials for selection to the U.S. Junior World Championship team for the events being held in Erzurum, TUR in February 2012.

Finally, Mr. Wilson noted that reports from USSA on nordic combined and men's and women's ski jumping programs indicated significant progress with a great deal of energy being shown.

Chair Joe Holland entertained a motion to approve the U.S. Championship plan, the Junior National calendar proposal and the North American Junior Championship proposal. Chuck Heckert moved that all three proposals be accepted. Blair Tomten seconded.

Discussion: Dan Warner noted that, for the Normal Hill and Nordic Combined Championships to be successful, the judges' tower in Chicago needed to be completed on a timely basis.

AMENDED MOTION for U.S. Championships: By June 1, 2011, the Chicago Organizing Committee will report to the J/NC Sport Committee with an update, plans and drawings for placement of the tower and a timeline for substantial construction progress to be made by August 15. If substantial progress is not evident by August 15 such that the tower would not be completed by a week before the competition commencing on October 1, a decision will be made about whether to move the competition. John Farra, on behalf of USSA and the J/NC Sport Committee is tasked with notifying the Organizing Committee about the subject of this amended motion.

Matt Laue made a motion to accept the amended proposal. Dave Jarrett seconded. **APPROVED**

A separate motion was made by Todd Wilson to accept the schedule to hold Junior Nationals in conjunction with the cross country Junior Nationals. Casey Colby seconded. **APPROVED**

Todd Wilson made a motion to accept the schedule for North American Junior Championships in Calgary, ALB January 1-3 and to use that competition as Junior World Championship Trials. Willy Graves seconded. **APPROVED**

The domestic calendar was presented including dates for three regional qualifiers for the USCSA Ski Jumping Championships. USCSA Ski Jumping Championships are to be held in conjunction with the FIS Cup in Brattleboro, VT, February 18-19 for the Normal Hill and at Sunday River, ME, during the USCSA Skiing Championships for Small Hills.

## 6. Proposals and Reports from the Officials' and the Coaches' Subcommittees

Officials' Subcommittee Chair, Matt Laue, reported that division reports were made to the officials from all but Alaska. The Subcommittee reviewed the past year's events and Technical Delegate Reports to identify topics to pursue for education conferences. Proposals for rule changes were discussed with members of the Coaches' Subcommittee.

The following are edits to be made to rules in the Nordic Competition Guide:

- 110.4 Prior to the competition, the USSA J/NC Officials Subcommittee appoints the Technical Delegate. USSA will also appoint an Assistant Technical Delegate, from the division in which the event is being hosted.

### **111 The Role of the USSA Jumping & Nordic Combined Sport Committee**

- 111.1 All rules, procedures and guidelines specific to USSA Junior Olympic—National Championships are established by the USSA Jumping & Nordic Combined Sport Committee, under recommendation by the USSA Jumping & Nordic Combined Sport Committee (JNCSC).

The following are proposed rule changes from the Officials' and Coaches' Subcommittees:

- 112.3 A 'letter of intent' should be delivered to the USSA Jumping/Nordic Combined Sport Committee and its Sub-committees at USSA Congress two years prior to the event. Bids for JOs—JNs ~~should~~ will be awarded at least—USSA Congress one year in advance in order to allow for adequate planning and distribution of information and to allow a major competition to be held at the site in the year prior to JOs—JNs.

Matt Laue made the motion to accept. Todd Wilson seconded. **APPROVED**

- 125.2 At JOs—JNs, competition will be held in two age classes and two gender classes: Junior 1, and Junior 2 in both male and female

~~125.4 WOMEN: If the minimum requirement for a class of women exists, a female skier may only ski in that class. If they are unable to produce a women's class or combination of three female skiers/teams between class then the women may ski in the men's class for both individual and team events. . (For Additional Women's Class Rules see General Rules #158)~~

- 127.5 At the Junior Olympics—Nationals there will be no guest class; all skiers will compete in their appropriate gender and age class (~~boys J/NC, girls J/NC~~).

~~139.3 Women's Competitions (See General Rules #190)~~

### **General Rules and Guidelines**

***(These words above need to be large print and bold)***

### **Age Classification, Qualifications of Competitors, Guest Class**

- 150 Age classification follows the standards set forth by USSA.**

See chapter ~~3~~ 2 of the Nordic Competition Guide.

- 152 Guest Class – Qualifications of Competitors, Procedures**

When competitors not meeting the qualifications in Rule ~~#111~~ #117 are competing at the USSA JOs—JNs, a Guest Class shall be included. Non-citizen, non-resident- alien athletes

who are in the US as exchange students or on student visas, and individuals who are members of invited foreign clubs or teams may compete only within the Guest Class.

### **158 — Women's Competitions**

~~158.1 If the minimum requirement for a class for women exists, a female skier may only ski in that class. If they are unable to produce a women's class or a combination of three female skiers/teams between classes, then women may ski in the men's class for both individual and team events (to include the ability to form mixed-sex teams).~~

~~158.2 The women's competition may be held immediately preceding the men's competition, possibly starting from a different gate. The start order will be women's first round, men's first round, women's second round and men's second round.~~

~~158.3 The women's competition may be combined with the men's competition, starting from the same gate, in which case it will be called an open competition. Women will be seeded with the men and will be eligible for awards. Women's awards would be based on their results in the open competition.~~

Matt Laue made the motion to accept. Blair Tomten seconded. **APPROVED**

### **190 USSA Jumping Hill Certification**

Separate attachment\*

Matt Laue made the motion to accept. Blair Tomten seconded. **APPROVED\***

\*At the behest of counsel, this document will be further vetted by counsel and staff and returned to the USSA Board of Directors for review and approval at the October 19, 2011 board meeting.

### **195 Venue Equipment Requirements**

195.1 Video Distance Measuring equipment is required at the U.S. National Championship events (excluding Junior Nationals and Nor Am's)

~~195.2 FIS or USSA "certified" video distance marker shall operate the Video Distance Measuring equipment at U.S. National Championship events.~~

The Video Distance Measuring equipment shall be operated by an approved operator who has been trained on the Video Distance Measuring operating system.

195.2.1 The host venue /Organizing Committee of the US J/NC Championships is responsible for round trip airfare or mileage at the prevailing government rate from the hometown of the video distance marker/operator and the Jumping Judges to the place of competition and for room and board accommodations

195.3 Only Video Distance Measuring systems approved by the Officials Subcommittee shall be used. (i.e. DartFish, Swiss Timing (Utah Olympic Park), and Z-tek, TBD.)

Matt Laue made the motion to accept. Clint Jones seconded. **APPROVED**

## **7. Replacement/Re-Nomination of Members with Expiring Terms**

Dan Warner moved that Joe Holland, Clint Jones and Casey Colby be nominated to serve an additional two-year term. Blair Tomten seconded. **APPROVED**

Jumping/Nordic Combined Sport Committee:

Joe Holland	Chairman	5/2013
John Farra	USSA Nordic Director	By employment
Tim Tetreault	Athlete	USSA BOD
Clint Jones	Athlete	5/2013
Dave Jarrett	National Coach, USST	By employment
Casey Colby	National Coach, SJUSA	5/2013
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

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.