

SKI JUMPING/NORDIC COMBINED SPORT COMMITTEE MINUTES USSA CONGRESS 2008 - PARK CITY, UT

May 17, 2008

Chair: Chuck Heckert

1. Chairman's Introduction

Chuck Heckert called the Committee to order and gave his opening comments, expressing his desire to have a lot of good work and planning toward good future solutions for the sports of ski jumping and Nordic Combined.

Chairman Heckert next introduced John Farra, the new USSA Nordic Program Director. Mr. Farra took the position vacated by Luke Bodensteiner. Mr. Farra expressed thanks for the opportunity to be present, and gave a brief biography of himself and his involvement in the Nordic sports.

2. Roll Call

The following members were present:

Chuck Heckert	Chairman, IMD	(term limit – spring 2009)
Todd Wilson	Coaches' sub-com.	(term limit – spring 2010)
Art Tokle	Division Rep.	(term limit – spring 2010)
Alan Alborn	Athlete Rep	(term limit – spring 2009)
Dave Jarrett	USSA NC Coach	(term limit – by employment)
John Farra	USSA Nordic Director	(term limit – by employment)
Matt Cook	Athlete Rep	(term limit – spring 2009)
Reed Zuehlke	Officials' sub-com.	(term limit – spring 2008) - Absent

Chairman Chuck Heckert notified the committee that this would be his last year as Chairman in order to spend more time on other interests. He will not be able to attend the USSA Congress meetings in May of 2009, but will otherwise remain Chairman until that point. He expects to stay firmly involved in the sport, just not on a committee level. Chuck will recommend some names to USSA CEO Bill Marolt as candidates for his replacement. The members thanked Chuck for his time and efforts.

Officials' subcommittee chairman, Reed Zuehlke, was absent from the meetings and has expressed an interest to step down from his post. Matt Laue was nominated to the post unchallenged. Motion made by Art Tokle; second by Todd Wilson; all in favor. Approved

Todd Wilson was nominated to continue his as Chair of the Ski Jumping/Nordic Combined Coaches' Subcommittee, with a term expiring in the spring of 2010. Motion made by Art Tokle; second by Dave Jarrett; all in favor. Approved

Art Tokle was nominated to continue as Divisional Rep. Motion made by Dave Jarrett; second by Alan Alborn; All in favor. Approved

3. Additions to the Agenda

Kerry Lynch and Alan Johnson presented a report concerning the current status of Men's Ski Jumping in the US to the Sport Committee. They requested that USSA Nordic Director John Farra and/or Sport Committee Chairman Chuck Heckert present the report to the USSA Board of Directors. .

No additional agenda items were brought forth and the agenda was **approved**.

4. **Approval of Minutes, Spring Congress '07**

Mr. Heckert called for the approval of the minutes, which were presented to the members approximately one month before the meeting. Upon a motion made by Todd Wilson and seconded by Art Tokle, the minutes were **accepted**.

5. **Proposals and Reports from the Officials' Subcommittee**

- All USSA J2 athletes shall follow Rule 4.1 per the FIS Youth Rules pertaining to skiers ski length of 143% of body height and no BMI. Exceptions to the rule are all athletes skiing in WJC Tryouts, NorAms, Super Tours and all other National level events (excluding JO's) those athletes will follow rules set forth by FIS in the Equipment Specifications Rule 1.2.1.1. Motion to accept made by Todd Wilson; second by Art Tokle; all in favor. **Approved**.
- USSA J1 and OJ Class athletes shall be listed as one age group in accordance with the FIS Junior age category. FIS Junior skiers are listed up to 19 years of age on December 31 of the competition season. Motion to accept made by Matt Laue; second by Art Tokle; all in favor. **Approved**.
- USSA guidelines pertaining to video distance marking at US National Championships shall allow for that position(s) to be filled by a USSA Certified Video Distance Marker to operate the appropriate equipment. The host venue is responsible for travel, room and board, as is customary with the other officials. This position will be appointed by the Officials Subcommittee as is customary with the other officials. Motion to accept made by Art Tokle; second by Dave Jarrett; all in favor. **Approved**.

6. **Proposals and Reports from the Coaches Subcommittee**

- The 2009 USSA Nationals for Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined shall be held the weekend of March 26th – 29th in Whistler at the 2010 Olympic Venue. The current anticipated schedule for FIS Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined, precludes this event from being held prior to March 26th. Additionally, the two sites that are capable of holding a National event in March (Steamboat Springs and Park City) are less than 50% confident that they will be successful at holding an event at such a late date. To also help facilitate the National team coaches' training and preparation plans for Medals at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games! Motion to accept made by Matt Laue; second by Alan Alborn; 6 in favor, 1 opposed. **Approved**.
- Whereas the FIS schedule for Nordic Combined World Cup A & B, the Ladies COCJ, the Men's COCJ, and World Cup schedules preclude a common weekend in the winter prior to the last weekend in March or the first week in April where all disciplines can be present, and it is critically important for all the nation's top athletes to be present to compete for the National Championship title, and the proposed timing of the event limits it to only two possible sites (Steamboat Springs and Park City), both of which are less than 50% confident that they will be successful at holding an event at such a late date, it is recommended that the USSA National Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined Championships be moved to the Late

Summer/Fall beginning in 2009-2010 season. Motion to accept made by Art Tokle; second by Alan Alborn; all in favor. **Approved.**

- Additional benefits to moving the event to this time of year would be to open the event up to numerous sites around the country previously unable to host this event. We would also recommend that the event rotate among the Divisions.
 - From an athletic standpoint, a Nationals at this time would maximize the effectiveness of their training and preparation periods for the major winter events, as well.
 - It should also be noted that virtually all nations (excluding Norway & Finland) currently host their National Championships in late Summer/Fall for these same reasons.
- Due to inherent price increases, increased travel cost for officials and additional technology needs, it is recommended that entry fees for US Nationals be increased from \$75 to \$100 and entry fees for Junior Olympics and North American Championships be increased from \$125 to \$150 beginning in the 2008-2009 season. Motion to accept made by Todd Wilson; second by Dave Jarrett; all in favor. **Approved.**
 - **SuperTour Guidelines 2008-2009**

The SuperTour is the premier ski jumping series in North America. Prize money and incentives are offered at every stop (only skiers with current USSA members are eligible for prize money), as well as NRL ranking for those skiers. Registration will be posted to www.ussa.org

Super Tour Schedule

Each region shall be allowed to host one SuperTour event in the summer and one SuperTour in the winter. US Nationals shall count as a SuperTour and be scored as such; however, there shall be no additional prize entry fee or prize money.

SuperTour Classes

The SuperTour is skied as one class for men. If there are at least three women, there will be a separate SuperTour class for women. If the organizer elects to host a Nordic Combined event in conjunction with the SuperTour ski jumping those skiers will jump in their designated class (men or women).

SuperTour Entry Fees

The maximum amount a club may charge for a single SuperTour event is \$60. A club may charge an additional fee to Nordic Combined skiers not to exceed an additional \$20 plus the initial entry fee.

All skiers wishing to be eligible for prize money must pay the required entry fee.

SuperTour Housing Program

At a minimum, the top 15 SuperTour ranked men, the top 5 SuperTour ranked women, and the top 5 SuperTour ranked Nordic Combined athletes preregistered in a SuperTour shall expect housing accommodations by the host site. Housing, at a minimum, shall commence at least one day prior to official training and terminate one day after the scheduled event(s).

SuperTour Competition Seeding

Skiers are seeded by the current SuperTour points list with the highest point total skier skiing last. Skiers not on the SuperTour points list will be seeded first by random draw. Coaches' and jury discretion may be used in seeding

SuperTour Competition Cuts

Each event will be cut to the top thirty skiers after the first competition round. If an organizer elects not to cut after the first round they may state that in their competition announcement or the decision may be made by the competition jury at the event.

SuperTour Minimum Prize Money

Each SuperTour organizer will pay prize money based on one half of entry fees collected for Ski jumping Men. The minimum prize money according to the following scale for each SuperTour event is based on the total prize money dollars available for Ski Jumping Men.

1 st 42%	2 nd 22%	3 rd 17%
4 th 12%	5 th 12%	6 th 7%

If, at a site on the SuperTour, the women's class is attended by a minimum of three (3) skiers, a separate prize money schedule will be set. Each SuperTour organizer will pay prize money based on one half of entry fees collected for Ski jumping Women. The minimum prize money according to the following scale for each SuperTour event is based on the total prize money dollars available for Ski Jumping Women.

1 st 50%	2 nd 30%	3 rd 20%
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If a SuperTour organizer elects to host a Nordic Combined event in addition to ski jumping and if there are at least three (3) a separate prize money schedule will be set. Each SuperTour organizer will pay prize money based on all the additional Nordic Combined entry fees collected for Nordic Combined Skiers. The minimum prize money according to the following scale for each SuperTour event is based on the total prize money dollars available for Nordic Combined Skiers.

1 st 50%	2 nd 30%	3 rd 20%
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SuperTour Series Ranking List and Overall Winner

The SuperTour series will be split into two seasons with each season's overall points leader receiving the season bonus as listed below. The end-of-the-season point totals are calculated by using each of the skiers' best scores from 70% of the season's SuperTour tournaments.

Overall Summer Season Points Leader Bonus \$500	Overall Winter Season Points Leader Bonus \$2,500
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SuperTour Scoring

One site holding one competition. Dispersion of prize money will be based on the results of that single event. That event will be scored on the current point schedule for the Super Tour. Points from that event will be added to the Overall Points List.

One region holding two or more competitions over a period. Dispersion of SuperTour points and prize money will be based on the cumulative results of all events. (Actual jump point totals from each day are added together.)

Place	Points	Place	Points
1 st	30	11 th	10
2 nd	25	12 th	9
3 rd	21	13 th	8
4 th	18	14 th	7

5 th	16	15 th	6
6 th	15	16 th	5
7 th	14	17 th	4
8 th	13	18 th	3
9 th	12	19 th	2
10 th	11	20 th	1

Motion to accept SuperTour Guidelines for 2008-2009 made by Todd Wilson; second by Dave Jarrett; all in favor. **Approved.**

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place in May 13-16, 2009 in Park City.

APPENDIX I

2009 USSA JUMPING/NORDIC COMBINED CALENDAR

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Date	Location	Jumping	Nordic Combined	Comments
July 5-6	Lake Placid	K-90 K-90	NC roll 10km Men 5km Women	
July 30- Aug.3	Park City, UT	K-10, K-20, K-40, K-64, K90, K-120	running NC	SuperTour SpringerTournee NRL
Aug. 7-9	Calgary	<K-64 <K-64	running NC	SpringerTournee
Sept. 21	Chicago, IL	K-70		SuperTour NRL
Oct. 11-12	Lake Placid	K-90 K-90	NC roll	SuperTour NRL
Dec 6-7	Steamboat, CO	K-114	7.5km	COC-NC Event
Dec 13-14	Park City, UT	HS-100	7.5km, 15km	COC- NC Event COCJL
Dec. 29-31	Lake Placid	K-120 K-90	Sprint 5km	SuperTour / JWC Trials NRL
Jan. 24-25	Chicago, IL	K-70		Five Hills Tour NRL
Jan 28-29	Minneapolis	K-70	NC on 29 th am	Five Hills Tour
Jan 30-31	Eau Claire, WI	K-88 K-88	NC	Five Hills Tour
Feb. 4	Ishpeming, MI	K-90		Five Hills Tour
Feb. 7-8	Westby, WI	K-114 K-114		FIS CUP / Five Hills Tour / SuperTour
Feb. 14-15	Iron Mountain,	K-120 K-120		COCJ Men
Mar. 3-7	Anchorage, AK	K-60 K-60 Team	Individual Team	Junior Olympics
Mar. 13-15	Steamboat, CO	NH, LH NH Team	Gundersen Sprint	North American Junior Championship
Mar. 28-29	Tbd	K-120 K-90	5km Sprint	National Championships / SuperTour NRL

NRL = Newly proposed National Ranking List events

APPENDIX II

2009 Nordic Combined World Junior 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 that available start rights and team spots will not necessarily be filled.
2. **TEAM SIZE**
A maximum of five (5) athletes may represent the United States in the 2009 Junior World Championships.
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, 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 coaching 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 four (4) athletes. Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in World Cup-A and COC-NC competitions held between November 1, 2008 and Dec. 23, 2008, and the Junior World Championship Trials held December 29-31, 2008 (tentative) in Lake Placid, NY (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 one (1) athlete 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 World Championships.
 - (b) **Objective Criteria.**
 - 1) Athletes shall be selected to the team based solely upon their competition results during the selection period. Team selections shall be granted to those athletes with the best world ranking on December 23, 2008 (tentative) in order, until the team is filled.
 - 2) If fewer than four athletes have been selected through the world-ranking list, USSA shall select as many additional athletes as may be necessary to bring the total team size up to the USA quota, as established by FIS. These athletes will be selected in rank order from the USSA Junior World Championship Trials (Lake Placid, Dec. 29-31, 2008), scoring both individual competitions using the World Cup scoring method.

APPENDIX III

2009 Ski Jumping World Junior 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 that available start rights and team spots will not necessarily be filled.

2. **TEAM SIZE**

A maximum of five (5) ski jumping athletes per gender may represent the United States in the 2009 Junior World Championships, unless otherwise specified by the International Ski Federation (FIS).

3. **START RIGHTS**

Up to four (4) athletes per gender may start for the United States in each event, unless otherwise specified by the International Ski Federation (FIS).

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 coaching staff is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the oversight of the Nordic Director of USSA. Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in Continental Cup competitions during December 2008, and during SuperTour and Junior World Championship Trial competitions held December 29-31, 2008 (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 one (1) athlete per gender 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 World Championships.

(b) **Objective Criteria.**

1. Team selections shall be granted to those athletes who have scored the most Continental Cup points during the selection period, in order, until the team is filled, 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:
 - Best Continental Cup finish during the selection period.
 - Second best Continental Cup finish during the selection period.
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, four (4) athletes per gender based on the cumulative total results of an athlete's best two of the following competitions, calculating the percent back of competition points in each (tentative) competition:
 - Dec. 29-31, 2008 – Lake Placid, NY (SuperTour/Junior World Championship Trials).