

USSA CROSS COUNTRY SPORT COMMITTEE MINUTES

USSA CONGRESS 2003

THE YARROW HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER, PARK CITY, UT

MAY 16-17, 2003

May 16, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Cross Country Committee

Call to Order

Lee Todd, Chairman of the Cross Country Committee, welcomed all of the Committee members, and guests of the Committee. He stated that the cross country program continues to take big strides toward the goal of being the best in the world, with some athletes showing top results, and results close to being the best ever by the U.S. Ski Team. He stated that, in Bill Marolt's opening message, the theme for this year is "Best in the World...What Does it Mean to Me?" Mr. Todd stated that for this group, and for the cross country program, it means keeping the focus on maintaining the momentum developed in the 2001 season, and the momentum prevalent in the Olympics and of course, this past season. He thanked Luke Bodensteiner and his staff for a job well done. He stated that all programs within the organization, including cross country, are facing some financial challenges now, but he stated that there is strong support for cross country within the board, and that Mr. Chuck Ferries, Chairman of the Board, is very excited and supportive of cross country's efforts.

Mr. Todd then appointed Luke Bodensteiner to keep the minutes of the Cross Country Committee meeting.

Roll Call

The following Cross Country Committee members were recognized as being present:

John Aalberg (Officials)	Term limit: Spring '05
Luke Bodensteiner (Nordic Director)	Term limit: by employment
Ja Dorris (Alaska), sub. for Joey Caterinichio	Term limit: Spring '04
Jon Engen (Athlete)	Term limit: Spring '04
Andrew Gerlach (At-large)	Term limit: Spring '04
Chris Grover (Development)	Term limit: by employment
Rick Kapala (Mountain)	Term limit: Spring '06
Chris Klein (Athlete)	Term limit: Spring '04
Reid Lutter (Coaches Chairman)	Term limit: Spring '03
Bill Sterling (Pacific)	Term limit: Spring '04
Kevin Sweeney (At-large)	Term limit: Spring '04
Lee Todd (Chairman)	Term limit: Spring '03
Dennis Kruse (Central)	Term limit: Spring '05

Mr. Bodensteiner also recognized the following guests; Bill Clark, Bruce Cranmer, Sten Fjeldheim, Lori Gates, Gary Giberson, Bob Gross, Lori Horn, Glenn Jobe, Sally Jones, TJ Owen, Eric Pepper and Ernie Page.

After calling role, Mr. Todd declared a quorum present.

Additions to the Agenda

Mr. Todd stated that the agenda had been distributed prior to the meeting, and called for additions to the agenda. Mr. Engen requested time to give a report on athlete issues, and it was **agreed** that he would be given the floor to report.

Hearing no other additions, Mr. Todd declared the agenda approved.

4. Approval of Minutes, Fall Meetings '02

Mr. Todd asked the members present to review the minutes, and make any comments. He stated that the minutes have been distributed prior to the meeting in the meeting materials.

Mr. Engen made a motion to accept the minutes, and was seconded by Mr. Klein.

Motion carries.

5. Nomination and Election Process for Chairman and Coaches' Subcommittee Chairman

Mr. Bodensteiner informed the Committee that the term of the Chairman of the Cross Country Committee, Mr. Todd, and the Chairman of the Coaches Subcommittee, Mr. Lutter will expire after this meeting.

He stated that the Chairman of the Committee is to be selected by the members of the Cross Country Committee. he proposed that the nominating period begin shortly after the close of this meeting, and last for a month, after which time the members of the Cross Country Committee will vote by email for their candidate.

He stated that Mr. Todd is eligible for another three-year term.

He then stated that the Chairman of the Coaches Subcommittee is nominated by the regional representatives currently serving on the Cross Country Committee, and therefore, only the five members of the Committee who serve as regional representatives have the right to nominate. He stated that if more than one nominee is presented, the Chairman will be elected from the nominees by the general membership in that category (Officials and Coaches). He stated that each region is not required to put forth a nominee, and is not limited to making nominations from their region only.

He stated that Mr. Lutter is eligible for another three-year term.

6. Selection of Executive Committee - 2004

Mr. Todd stated that at each Spring Meeting, the Cross Country Committee is required to name its Executive Committee. He stated that for each of the past several years, this Committee has been made up of the Chairman of the Cross Country Committee, the Chairman of the Officials' Subcommittee, the Chairman of the Coaches' Subcommittee, an Athlete Representative, and the Nordic Director.

Mr. Todd recommended that, since there may be a new Committee Chairman and Coaches' Subcommittee Chairman, that the structure of the Executive Committee remain the same, and that the new Chairman review the current structure, and have the authority to name the members. This proposal was **accepted**.

5. Staff Report

Mr. Todd asked Mr. Engen for his athletes report.

Mr. Engen stated that the athletes on the team are very satisfied with the work being done by the staff, and the quality of the program. He stated that some athletes are still concerned with doping in the sport, and would like a statement concerning doping brought forth to the Board for their consideration. He stated that the budget is a constant concern. He stated that there has been some small debate about the use of coaches' discretion in team selection, and a desire has been expressed to not let it get out of hand.

He stated that reviewing the two-year cycle of hosting the nationals was an issue he was tasked by the Committee with, and he stated that he's been pondering how to go to the Board with the issue. He stated that, after input from Mr. Bodensteiner and others, he decided to take the issue up through executive staff. He stated that, in his perspective, flexibility in scheduling in terms of altitude and promotion is important.

Mr. Klein added that he's gone out of his way to solicit negative feedback from the athletes, and he stated that there isn't much there. He stressed the need to build the new World Championship event formats into the competition program.

Ms. Kemppele stated that, from her perspective, the coaching staff needs to continue to try and build a stronger presence on the women's side, so that they can have a team of more than one woman.

Mr. Aalberg asked if the Committee should make any statements regarding any of these issues to take to the Board.

Mr. Engen replied that, in his opinion, no. He stated that the most effective way to make a statement about doping control would be to send a letter directly to FIS, but he also noted that a similar letter had already been sent to FIS by the majority of the World Cup skiers, already.

Mr. Aalberg noted that many of the problems with doping control at the World Championships were, in his opinion, structural to the organizing committee there, related to their level of preparedness. He then asked if the Committee should draft a response on these issues directly to the athletes.

Mr. Engen stated that, in his opinion, the issues can be dealt with directly through the points on the agenda.

Ms. Kemppele stated that USSA should solicit help and advice from team alumni, and bring them into the loop immediately after retirement.

Mr. Gerlach noted that, with the tremendous results of this season, the association also needs to let both the ski community and non-skiers know what our athletes have been achieving, because that's the way to develop more funds. He stated that he also worries about the top athletes, who are not on the team yet, and he hopes to be able to find a mechanism of support for them, but he stated that if they're racing in Europe it is a tough sell, so there is a clear need to continue to march forward with high-level domestic competition and promotion.

Mr. Todd stated that the team and the staff have done a very good job of working at the top levels, but he stated that the members of the Committee generally aren't working at the top levels. He stated that there has been a lot of attention paid to focusing on the national team program, which in his opinion is correct, but that the Committee should also seek to discuss how to build the lower levels of the sport.

Mr. Todd stated that, after the major changes and retrenching seven years ago which had the group focus on the top end, the top end is now stable and performing well, so it may be appropriate to begin now to look deeper into the sport system.

Mr. Todd turned the floor over to Luke Bodensteiner for his report.

Mr. Bodensteiner commented briefly on the results out of U.S. athletes this winter. He stated that he's heard most of the Committee members have a lot of discussions together about these landmark results, and that it is his impression that the members have analyzed the results, and have tried to pinpoint the reason or reasons for the continued upward curve of success with our athletes, and especially the sharp upward rise this year.

He stated that, each year, the Committee talks about the reasons for the advances the program has made, such as stronger domestic comps in 1998, the re-launch of a development team in 1999, the changes to the team selection methods in 2000, the growth of the scope of the domestic event program in 2001, the association's commitment to the residence program last spring, and so forth, and that each year, the Committee has tried hard to put the opportunity to have good results directly into the hands of the coaches and the athletes, and to ensure that the development system totally supports their efforts, and doesn't detract from it.

He stated that, in his opinion, big strides have been made to that end. He stated that the Committee has really pulled together to provide a single and consistent direction that the program has been able to build on, and that the coaches and athletes have been able to build on.

He stated that, while it's dangerous to try and pinpoint a single reason for the recent successes at the highest levels of competition, because really, this has been a long-term change and the compilation of a hundred things coming together all at once, it is his opinion that the results realized this year are truly a product of outstanding coaching, and the operations of the support staff. He stated that he wouldn't go into detail on that in his report, since the coaches have done a good job reporting about their methods and innovations through web and print articles, and will continue to do so, most importantly at National Coaches Conf coming up this summer. But, he stated, the level of planning, the expertise, the execution of components of the team program and the interaction between the athletes and the coaching staff has been truly brilliant. He stated that he's worked with and around many different coaching staffs with the program over the past 17 years, and the combination of coaches the team has now with Trond Nystad and Pete Vordenberg at the top level, Chris Grover heading up the development efforts, Chris Hall leading the ski preparation program, and Katie Gould leading the operations is the best he's ever seen.

He stated that, thanks to that staff, the program's had a lot of great news to report on the results end. He stated that, when the Committee talks about results, they should note not only Kris Freeman and Carl Swenson's outstanding World Cup results, with a 4th place finish in a Sprint Relay, and their World Championship results, but they should also note that for the 7th year in a row, U.S. juniors have recorded best-ever results at the Jr. Worlds. He stated that, unfortunately this isn't something we can expect to see every year, although it might seem like it now.

He stated that, while you'd think that with great results all of our challenges would go away, he must report to the Committee that the program has faced new challenges this spring. He stated that the Committee has always been up to challenges, and we hasn't been afraid to take chances and bite into big projects and make bold calls, even if that's stirred up controversy and criticism directed at our program. But, he stated now the challenge is a financial one.

He stated that, earlier this spring, Bill Marolt informed his staff that USSA was cutting \$2 million out of its operating budget, with a little over \$1 million of that coming out of the athletic department, so each team was asked to pare back the scope of its program. He stated that the basic strategy for addressing these cuts was to protect the program at the top-end for the athletes who are performing at a high-level, and to keep those programs which are now successful and on-target to meet the association's goals internationally, one of which, is to win a medal in cross country in Torino, 2006. Fortunately, he stated, cross country proved this year that the program is still on-target to meet, and possibly exceed that goal. He also stated that an overriding strategy

throughout the association was also to make the cuts deep enough that the teams are in a position from which they can begin to re-build.

He stated that this was a new situation for the staff, since for the past 7 years, they've seen an annual increase in the growth of the team budget. He stated that this has happened in a large part, thanks to the strength of the Committee and their willingness to work together and in the same direction. He stated that, because of that, a strength has been portrayed behind the plan and behind the program, and because of that, the budget was actually able to grow again this year even in an environment where others have had to cut. He congratulated the members on that and stated that the athletes are certainly thankful for the work they've done at the boardroom table and in the field on behalf of USSA.

But, he stated, even though the program's continued to grow, it's also placed more demands on the resources, specifically; more athletes are performing at a high level. He stated that again this year there are more athletes on the team than the year before. He pointed to a new need to increase the amount of W. Cup racing for some of the top athletes, and noted that top-end performance enhancement is now the primary focus for team. So, he stated, despite budget growth, some core programs have been sacrificed. He stated that, unlike the strategy a number of years ago, when the team size was cut and the majority of resources were placed into development, the program is now focused primarily on the top-end where athletes can win medals. So, he stated, some of the development programs have been sacrificed, specifically; an elimination of funding for the Jr. Scandinavian Cup, a change to the funding standard for the Junior World Championships, a reduction of Jr. World Championship staff by one, an elimination of team funding to the Spring Series including that normally available for the Junior Olympic Grand Champions, a reduction of direct financial support for all team athletes, and elimination of Fast Skis program, which we hope to re-launch in 2005. He stated that the bulk of the cuts were targeted at the development level.

He stated that, related to those cuts, and a continuing issue every year is that the team is still unable to have all top-performing athletes on team. He stated that the strategy remains to focus on the very best, and to give them all the tools necessary to achieve the team's goals. However, he stated, in partnership with the best race organizers, more of a safety net has continued to develop for those athletes who can't be incorporated fully into the team. He thanked the Nor/Am organizers, who are committed to continuing to grow the series, which has given athletes a greater possibility than ever to self-fund. He stated that with the addition of events in Anchorage and Presque Isle, the Nor/Am will likely reach a total prize purse of \$100,000 this year, representing a 70% annual increase in prize money each year since the Nor/Am's inception. He stated that three-year agreements show that the series will likely to reach \$120K for its 10th anniversary in 2006, exceeding the goal set last year, which was to reach \$100,000 by 2006. He stated that the tour has split from Canada, and he thanked the Nor/Am working group for their help and advice in making that transition. Because of the change, he stated, the series will have a new name, the Nor/Am SuperTour.

He stated that otherwise, as the Members can see by agenda, the program remains very stable. He thanked the Members for fostering big changes to the way this sport is governed, and for supporting the projects that have needed time to be stable in order to be effective.

6. Junior Olympic Rule Changes

Revisions to the Junior Olympic rules, were proposed in writing by John Estle, the Chief of Competition for the 2003 Junior Olympics and original drafter of the new JO rules. The following changes were proposed by the Committee:

66.1.2 The maximum permissible charge for coach credentials in addition to those specified in rule 075 is \$50 per credential (\$50 fee excludes the price of a ticket to the final banquet), up to a maximum total of 10 coach credentials. The Organizing Committee may establish its own price for coach credentials in excess of 10.

67.4 A memento should be presented to each participating competitor and to each accredited coach who are members of each Division or District's team.

67.5 All Guest Class skiers will be introduced at the mid-week awards ceremony or at the final banquet.

70.1.4 Skiers ranked in the first 20 men or the first 20 women on the final NCAA East, ~~or~~ NCAA West, ~~or ranking lists, and skiers ranked in the first 10 men or the first 10 women on the final~~ NCAA Central ranking lists are automatically qualified to enter JOC as a part of the team from their home division, but are not counted against their Division's or District's quota specified in rule 074.

72.3 The USSA Junior Olympic Championships will take place in March. The Sprint event will normally be held on the Monday after the first Friday in March.

2004/East: Monday, March 8-Saturday, March 13
2005/Pacific: Monday, March 7-Saturday, March 12
2006/Central: Monday, March 6-Saturday, March 11
2007/Mountain: Monday, March 5-Saturday, March 10
2008/Alaska: Monday, March 10-Saturday, March 15

73.3 Technique will alternate according to this schedule

Year	Sprint	Long Race	Short Race	Relay
2001	free	free	classic	Classic-Classic-Free
2002	free	classic	free	Classic-Classic-Free
2003	free	free	classic	Classic-Classic-Free
2004	free	classic	free	Classic-Classic-Free

74.1 Quotas for JOC are:

Division or District	Males	Females
Alaska	21	21
Central/Great Lakes	21	21
Central/Midwest	21	
East/Mid-Atlantic	21	21
East/New England	21	21
Far West	21	
<u>High Plains</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>21</u>
Intermountain/Northern	21	21
Pacific Northwest	21	
Rocky Mountain	21	21

75.2.1 The coaching staff consists of those individuals whose function is primarily coaching, and who need access to: coaches' and team leaders' meetings, the course during the races, and all areas accessible to competitors except the ski marking area. Access to these areas and functions are possible only with a coaching credential. The Technical Delegate may limit the number of coaches allowed to attend the Team Captains meetings, but this number may not exceed ~~3~~ 2 per division or district.

75.8.3 Red-Numbered Bibs

Staff members wearing red-numbered bibs are permitted to move on the course during the event, to test kick-wax during the event, with the flow of traffic, and to have access to all racer-service and care areas if so determined by the TD or Chief of Competition.

75.8.4 Green-Numbered Bibs
 Staff members wearing green-numbered bibs are permitted close access to the competition course for purposes of split-timing, are permitted to move along the course (with the flow in traffic) during breaks between classes or course changes, and may have access to the start pen and the finish pen **as designated if so determined** by the TD or Chief of Competition.

75.8.5 The organizers may establish their own method of regulating access to the start area and to the finish area, in consultation with the TD.

75.8.5.6 Close access to the course, and movement on the course from the start of the first competitor to the finish of the last competitor is prohibited to all personnel who are not wearing official green-numbered or red-numbered bibs.

78.1.4 Age-class eligibility table: (Year of Junior Olympic Championships and Year of Birth)

Class	2001	2002	2003	2004
Older Junior	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
Junior 1	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87
Junior 2	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89

Class	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<u>Older Junior</u>	<u>1984-85</u>	<u>1985-86</u>	<u>1986-87</u>	<u>1987-88</u>	<u>1988-89</u>
<u>Junior 1</u>	<u>1986-87</u>	<u>1987-88</u>	<u>1988-89</u>	<u>1989-90</u>	<u>1990-91</u>
<u>Junior 2</u>	<u>1988-89</u>	<u>1989-90</u>	<u>1990-91</u>	<u>1991-92</u>	<u>1992-93</u>

79.5 The Assistant Chief of Competition A jury member selected by the Organizing Committee in consultation with the host region competition committee, the TD, and the USSA Representative

80.3 In the sprint qualifying and individual events, skiers will start one every 15 seconds **in the sprint and freestyle races, and one every 30 seconds in the classic**. However, the Technical Delegate may approve the use of other start intervals, or the use of dual starts, if the timing capabilities are available.

81.3 Technical specifications for JOC cross country courses:

Distance	Girls Courses			Boys' Courses		
	3km	5km	10km	5km	10km	15km
HD	50m	100m	150m	100m	150m	200m
MM	50m	50m	50m	50m	75m	100m
MT	60-100m	120-200m	250-400m	120-200m	250-400m	400-600m
<u>HD</u>	<u>50m</u>	<u>100m</u>	<u>150m</u>	<u>100m</u>	<u>150m</u>	<u>200m</u>
<u>MC</u>	<u>50m</u>	<u>50m</u>	<u>80m</u>	<u>50m</u>	<u>80m</u>	<u>100m</u>
<u>TC</u>	<u>80-120m</u>	<u>150-200m</u>	<u>250-400m</u>	<u>150-200m</u>	<u>250-400m</u>	<u>400-600m</u>

81.5 At elevations between 1,800m and 2200m/7218', the **MT TC** and **MM MC** must be at least 10% below the maximum limit specified above.

82.1.2 There must be a minimum of six (~~four~~) start lanes and not less than four finish lanes

82.2.2 In the OJ and J1 classes, competitors with points will start before competitors without points. The start order of the competitors with points will not be by random draw, but will be according to their NRL points. The skier with the best (lowest) points will start first, the skier with the next-lowest points will second, etc. Start positions for skiers without points will be assigned by a random draw.

82.3.3 Sample Order-Qualifying Round

~~2003: J2 girls – J2 boys – J1/OJ girls – J1/OJ boys~~

2004: J2 boys – J2 girls – J1/OJ boys – J1/OJ girls

2005: J2 girls – J2 boys – J1/OJ girls – J1/OJ boys
 2006: J2 boys – J2 girls – J1/OJ boys – J1/OJ girls
2007: J2 girls – J2 boys – J1/OJ girls – J1/OJ boys
2008: J2 boys – J2 girls – J1/OJ boys – J1/OJ girls

82.3.4 Sample Order-Elimination Round

Year/Bracket	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	
First Bracket	J2 girls/boys	J2 boys/girls	J2 girls/boys	J2 boys/girls	
Second Bracket	J1 girls/boys	J1 boys/girls	J1 girls/boys	J1 boys/girls	
Third Bracket	OJ girls/boys	OJ boys/girls	OJ girls/boys	OJ boys/girls	
<u>Year/Bracket</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	
<u>First Bracket</u>	<u>J2 boys/girls</u>	<u>J2 girls/boys</u>	<u>J2 boys/girls</u>	<u>J2 girls/boys</u>	
<u>Second Bracket</u>	<u>J1 boys/girls</u>	<u>J1 girls/boys</u>	<u>J1 boys/girls</u>	<u>J1 girls/boys</u>	
<u>Third Bracket</u>	<u>OJ boys/girls</u>	<u>OJ girls/boys</u>	<u>OJ boys/girls</u>	<u>OJ girls/boys</u>	

83.3.7 From fastest to slowest, the seeded groups are: Red Group-(Group 4)-Group 3-Group 2-Group 1-
Group 0

83.3.8 The normal start order of the groups in the individual events other than the sprint is 0-1-2-3-(4)-Red

84.6 ~~When the number of tracks set in the start grid is less than specified in 084.4, but there is space for more than one lane per division or district, the~~ The TD, in consultation with the Chief of Competition, will determine the starting grid in accordance with rule 84.8. The TD may allocate multiple lanes to those divisions or districts entering more teams, and may allocate single lanes to those divisions or districts entering fewer teams.

84.12 A visible mark or sign on relay bibs must be made so that it is possible for spectators, coaches and competitors to visually determine if a relay team is a Junior 1 team or an Older Junior team.

~~85.6.1 The start format for the sprint qualifying and for the individual start free technique event shall be single starts at 15-second intervals. The start format for the individual start classic event shall be single starts at 30-second intervals. (This is covered in 80.3)~~

86.1 All competitors finishing ~~42.00 NRL pre-penalty points~~ within 7.00% of the fastest time in their respective classes in the individual events shall earn All-America status.

Mr. Kapala made a motion to accept these rule changes, and he was seconded by Mr. Lutter.

Motion accepted.

**May 16, 1:00pm – 5:00pm
 Officials' Subcommittee**

1. Review of Officials' Committee's tasks and goals

Mr. Aalberg stated that the responsibilities of the Subcommittee include providing direction, consultation and decision regarding rules interpretation and rules development, supervising national venue and course development, Overseeing and managing education of TDs, event organizers and officials, appointing educated, effective and helpful TDs (and other officials) to Organizers of high level national events, and advising and providing guidance regarding timing services at national and regional USSA races.

He stated that the goals of the Subcommittee include increasing the standard of TD work, increasing the standard of organizations and events, increase number of certified competition sites, and developing clear rules, officials' manuals and TD/Officials' certification pipeline.

He stated that the Committee is made up of a rules group, a course and venue certification group, a TD and Officials' education group, a TD assignments group, and an IT group.

2. Review of season TD appointments and comments

Mr. Aalberg gave the following overview:

Date	Location	Event	TD & Jury	Comments/Issues
Nov 9-10	Fairbanks, AK	NorAm	Mike Miller Luke Bodensteiner	One protest sprint final
Nov 29-30	West Yellowstone, MT	NorAm	Bob Gross Luke Bodensteiner	Course requirements Photo finish equipment
Dec 30-31	Presque Isle, ME	FIS	Jim Rodriguez	Sprint final photo finish protest
Jan 4 – 12	Rumford , ME	National Champ	John Aalberg Ed Finnerty Chuck Broomhall John Weston Luke Bodensteiner	Road crossing Warm-up on course Track setting (double)
Jan 12-13	Soldier Hollow	FISU	Bob Gross Lori Gates	Course requirements Track setting into finish lanes Recreational skiers on course
Jan 31 – Feb 1	Eldora	FISU	Knut Nystad	
Feb 1-2	Marquette	FISU	Jack Jefferey	
	Estonia	World Loppet	Bob Gross	Finish line setup for marathons TD expectations during hosting & ceremonies
Feb 14 – Mar 1	Val Di Fiemme, Italy	World Ski Champ	John Aalberg	Course track setting Substitutions TV Doping
Feb 21-22	Winter Park	FISU	Bruce Cranmer	
Mar 4-11	Miyasama Games, Japan	FIS	Gary Larson	TD expectations during hosting & ceremonies
Mar 7-9	Dartmouth	NCAA	Scott Wilson Max Cobb	Timing issue for backup
Mar 10-15	Fairbanks, Alaska	Junior Nationals	Lee Todd Mike Miller Luke Bodensteiner	Sprint incident
Mar 29- April 5	Marquette	Spring Series	Jack Jeffery	

Mr. Aalberg noted the other regional assignments:

NENSA Eastern Cup TD or Assistant TDs

- Pat Cote (Assistant)
- Fred Griffin
- Jim Rodriguez
- Galen Sayward
- James Townsend
- Putnam Blodgett
- Ted Gardner
- Bucky Broomhall
- Chuck Broomhall

JOQ Alaska TDs

- John Estle
- Mike Miller

JOQ Intermountain TDs

- Gregg Lawly
- Gary Giberson

JOQ Midwest TDs

- Scott Wilson
- Mark Boback
- Gary Larson
- Jack Jeffrey

JOQ Pacific

- John Hatcher
- Gretchen Daiber

3. FIS ICR New Guidelines

The following FIS guidelines were discussed:

- ❑ Violation against art 207 Commercial markings following rule 223.3.3 should not lead to the disqualification (case Bauer at Birke) but should rather result in financial penalty.
- ❑ Wireless support,/connection between competitor and coach is not allowed.
- ❑ Limitation of the start field for double pursuit competition – use FIS Points to limit fields if required
- ❑ Sprint Rule adjustments:
 - Only one false start is allowed.
 - If there is a tie in the A or B –final the competitors will be ranked on the same place, for tie in quarter and semi–finals they will be ranked according the qualification time.
 - If a competitor for some reasons (broken ski, pool or injury) does not finish the heat, he should not be removed from result list, but should be ranked as last among qualified competitors and his qualification time should assure him FIS Points.
- ❑ Both pair of skis must be marked for pursuit races
- ❑ New FIS Championship race program:

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Interval start:	15 km	10 km
Mass-start:	50 km	30 km
Pursuit (skiathlom):	15 + 15 km	7.5 + 7.5 km

Sprint:	1.5 km	1.0 km
Sprint Relay (2):	2 x 3 x 1.0 - 1.4 km	2 x 3 x 0.8 – 1.2 km
Team Relay (4):	4 x 10 km	4 x 5 km

4. Update to USSA Rulebook

The sprint points calculation was discussed, and the Subcommittee discussed the usefulness of listing the event pipeline and officials/TD pipeline on web site.

Mr. Aalberg stated that a major update USSA rules according to new FIS rules (new revision 2004 Spring) should be done after FIS working group proposal. Hugh Cooke will be asked to review USSA Rulebook to identify where additional changes should be made. Goal would be do complete all changes by June 2004.

5. Review of US Certified (Homologated) Sites

Current certificates:

- Kincaid Park, Anchorage - FIS
- Soldier Hollow, Midway - FIS (from 1.5-16.7km)
- Putney, VT - FIS (5 km)
- Presque Isle - FIS (5 km)
- Ponderosa Park, McCall - USSA 1,2 (5km, 7.5 km)
- Bohart Ranch, Bozeman - USSA 3,4,5,6 (5,7.5,10,12.5km)
- Rumford - USSA 7,8,9
- Lake Placid - FIS expired

In process for next season:

- Fairbanks - USSA & FIS
- Rumford - FIS
- Lake Placid (JO) - USSA
- West Yellowstone - USSA
- Mt. Itasca - USSA
- Telemark - USSA (later FIS)
- Marquette - USSA
- Eldora - USSA
- Auburn - USSA

6. Event Course Requirements for 2003/2004

Motion: By year 2004, bids for NorAm, US Junior and Senior National Championships events are not accepted without course data (stadium layout, course plan and profile) and an initial course review by the USSA Officials' Committee.

7. Clarification to NRL Sprint Formula

Some discussion.

8. 2004 TD assignments

Mr. Wilson made a proposal of TD assignments, and the final list will be determined after coordination with candidates.

9. Certification and licensing system

Current list as per below. Advancement will be per Officials' pipeline document.

TD Level 4: John Aalberg, Lee Todd

TD Level 3:

Cami	Cardinelli
Don	Christman
Hugh	Cooke
Bruce	Cranmer
John	Estle
John	Filander
Ed	Finnerty
Ted	Gardner
Bob	Gross
John	Hatcher
Jack	Jeffery
Earl	Jette
Gary	Larson
Mike	Miller
Knut	Nystad
Mary	Pelto
Jim	Rodriguez
Scott	Wilson

10. 2003 National Officials' Education Seminar – site, contents

Date: In connection with NorAm race either at West Yellowstone or Soldier Hollow (Soldier Hollow most likely). Will be a combined TD and Organizers' seminar.

Topic suggestions:

- Timing issues/Use of Internet/Use of Transponders
- Sprint rules
- Marathon/Popular race specifics
- How to become National and FIS TD (step by step)
- Race organizers' workshop

11. Regional Education

Regional coordinators will coordinate regional seminars.

2003/2004 Regional Officials' Coordinators are:

East	- Ted Gardner
Central	- Scott Wilson
Intermountain, Rocky, High Planes	- Bob Gross
Far West	- Lori Horn
Pacific	- John Hatcher
Alaska	- John Estle

12. TD/Organizer Education requirements for event sites and regions

Motion : It is a requirement for USSA sanctioned NRL race Organizers to have a level 2 (or higher) certified TD officiate the race, and cover TD expenses as per the USSA competition rules.

May 16, 1:00pm – 5:00pm
Coaches' Subcommittee

1. Review Junior World Championship Selection Methods

Mr. Grover explained that at its spring meeting in 2002, the Cross Country Committee approved the following addition to the Junior World Championship selection criteria as the first objective means for being named:

“Up to two (2) athletes per gender shall be selected to the team based solely upon their Nor/Am competition results between November 1 and December 16, 2002. Male athletes achieving a FIS point result under 70 FIS points in a Nor/Am distance race, or under 80 FIS points in a Nor/Am sprint race, and female athletes achieving a FIS point result under 75 FIS points in a Nor/Am distance race, or under 90 FIS points in a Nor/Am sprint race between Nov. 1 and Dec. 16, 2002 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:

- Highest/higher single placing in Nor/Am competitions (held between Nov. 1-Dec. 16, 2002)
- Second highest single placing in Nor/Am competitions (held between Nov. 1-Dec. 16, 2002)
- Third highest single placing in Nor/Am competitions (held between Nov. 1-Dec. 16, 2002)
- Fourth highest single placing in Nor/Am competitions (held between Nov. 1-Dec. 16, 2002)
- Lowest FIS points in a Nor/Am competition (held between Nov. 1 and Dec. 16, 2002)”

Mr. Grover noted that it was agreed that this additional criteria would be reviewed after its use in 2003, and a decision would be made to use it or not for 2004. He stated that last season, two athletes, Andy Newell and Leif Zimmerman met the criteria. He noted that Kristina Trygstad, who had actually won a Nor/Am competition, did not meet the standard due to the FIS points for the event.

Mr. Kapala stated that one of the concerns from the meeting last year was that kids who qualified for the team before the National Championships would sandbag that competition, but he didn't feel like that happened, but that it in fact paved the way for those with the highest likelihood of top-level performance at the Junior World Championships. He stated that even though no women made the standard, the standard still may not be all that high, but in fact the quality of the field may be lower than in the men's competitions. He stated that he also didn't believe that kids were chasing points, which was a concern of the Committee when this addition was passed a year ago.

Mr. Klein agreed with Mr. Kapala, and stated that with the Nor/Am taking place totally in the U.S. now, the real question is how to get more women with good FIS points.

Mr. Grover added that another concern last year was that this addition could encourage kids to ski fast too early in the season, and indicated that this was not the case.

Mr. Engen stated that the point standard is tough enough, pointing to Andy Newell's #1 world ranking for junior sprinters, and Leif Zimmerman's achievements at the Junior Worlds.

Mr. Kapala made a motion to accept a continuation of this selection method for the Junior World championships, and was seconded by Mr. Grover.

Motion carries.

2. Review Junior Scandinavian Cup Selection Methods

Mr. Lutter noted that, while no changes are proposed to this team selection criteria, due to budget restrictions, USSA is no longer able to provide funding for the coaching staff and ground transportation necessary to complete the competition. He stated that the estimated cost per athlete for the competition this season will be \$750 plus their air and lodging expenses.

Mr. Sweeney stated that, even though USSA is no longer able to provide funding for this competition, it should still remain as the organizer and sanctioning body for the competition, since it adds a level of importance to the competition, and also addresses some of the eligibility concerns athletes might have with regard to the NCAA.

Mr. Kapala stated that this competition is now a big hook for junior skiers, and many are even writing this competition into their goals. He stated that, even with no funding, the competition should continue. He stated that with the competition as part of the pipeline, it motivates junior skiers, elevates the importance of the National Championship, and when kids go out to raise their funds for the trip locally, as they've done in the past, it also elevates the name of the U.S. Ski Team in some important skiing communities.

Mr. Lutter confirmed that the competition will remain a part of the pipeline, and will continue to be organized by the U.S. Ski Team, as long as all of the participants can meet the funding requirements.

Mr. Kapala suggested a deadline of December 1 to decide whether or not the trip will happen. He noted that if only some kids accept the fact that they have to pay their share, or if funding isn't guaranteed by NCCSEF, the trip cannot happen.

Mr. Lutter suggested that Mr. Bodensteiner could work with the organizers of the event to try and open the invitation to more nations, which would increase the importance of the event.

3. Update Regarding Junior World Championship Funding Modifications

Mr. Grover explained that for the past several years, USSA has funded a lot of athletes who have had good results at the Junior Worlds, but due to budget restrictions, the funding standards for the Junior World Championships have been set as follows:

"USSA funding will normally be granted to those athletes whose USSA National Ranking List points are under 65 for men and 80 for women. Non-funded athletes placing in the top-15 in an individual event, or twice in the top-30 in individual events at the Junior World Championships will normally be reimbursed for their expenses. A minimum of one male and one female athlete will be funded."

Mr. Kapala made a motion to accept the funding standard and was seconded by Mr. Klein.

Motion carries.

4. NRL Update – Sprint and Distance Lists

Mr. Bodensteiner stated that, in order study the possibilities of using separate Sprint and Distance National Ranking Lists, the NRL will offer "filters" through which athletes can access their points and rankings based on only Sprint and Distance events. He stated that this function will replace the old Classic and Freestyle filtering system, which will no longer exist. He stated that this will not create two truly separate lists, and that overall points will still be used to determine all race

penalties. However, he stated the experiences gained here can help to further the discussion regarding the separation of the lists in the future.

Mr. Kapala suggested that if the programming can be made without too much additional expense, the Classic and Freestyle filters should also be maintained, as this is a tool some coaches use.

5. Consider 2005 Junior Olympics Proposal from Auburn Ski Club

Mr. Lutter explained that the Auburn Ski Club had submitted their bid according to the January 1 deadline to the Junior Working Group, the members of which have reviewed its contents. At the Junior Working Group meeting during the Junior Olympics in Fairbanks in March, the Working Group voted to recommend to the Committee the selection of the Auburn Ski Club as the host of the 2005 Junior Olympics. He noted that the Auburn Ski Club was the only organizer to submit a bid.

Mr. Kapala made a motion to confirm the Auburn Ski Club as the organizer of the 2005 Junior Olympics, and was seconded by Kevin Sweeney.

Motion carries.

6. Consider the Addition of the “High Plains” Junior Olympic District

Mr. Lutter informed the Members that, at its annual meeting during the Junior Olympics, the Junior Working Group agreed to recommend to the Coaches’ Subcommittee and Cross Country Committee the addition of the “High Plains” district to the Junior Olympic program. He stated that this would bring the number of division/district teams competing in the Junior Olympics to 10, and would likely increase the number of competitors at the Junior Olympics by 20-30 skiers already in 2004, and then turned the floor over to Bob Matson and Jim Miller, representatives of the proposed district, for their presentation.

Mr. Matson stated that this proposal stems from the growth of skiing in Wyoming, and the distances traveled across the current Intermountain Division. He stated that, in some cases, kids are driving for two days to get to a Junior Olympic Qualifier. He stated that, while this proposal has been on the table for over a year, that they only wanted to come to the Committee with their formal request after plans in the District were solid with regard to clubs, governance, high school associations, etc. He stated that the foundation is now solid, and presented many supporting materials to the work, which has been completed. He stated that the goal of the District is also to incorporate teams from the Black Hills of South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska and eastern Montana.

Mr. Kapala stated that the Intermountain Division expressed their full support for this change at their annual meeting two weeks prior to this meeting. He stated that the Intermountain Divisional governance had done a thorough analysis of this change. He stated that, in 1997, 27 skiers and two clubs represented IMD at the Junior Olympics, and that now their team has grown to about 50 kids, but with dwindling participation from skiers in Wyoming, due to the two day drive across the division, and that most IMD clubs are located in the western side of the division. He stated that IMD recognizes the competitive capacity of a High plains District, and stated that there are very competitive skiers there, who don’t necessarily participate in the Junior Olympic program. He stated that the impacts of this addition to the Junior Olympics are only positive.

Mr. Bodensteiner expressed his enthusiasm for a change that will touch athletes in three states we traditionally haven’t heard from before.

Mr. Engen made a motion to accept the addition of the High Plains District to the Junior Olympic program, and was seconded by Mr. Sterling.

Motion carries.

7. Consider Awarding of Junior Olympics Three Years in Advance

Mr. Lutter stated that, at its annual meeting during the Junior Olympics, the Junior Working Group rejected a proposal to begin to award the Junior Olympics three years in advance. He stated that this proposal was forwarded by the organizers of the 2003 Junior Olympics in Fairbanks, who noted that an additional year of preparation would have improved their efforts even more, particularly on the fundraising end. He stated that this proposal was rejected by a vote of 4-5, however, it was suggested that this is indicative of the opinion of the Junior Olympic coaches, and not necessarily the event organizers. Therefore, he said, a decision of the Coaches' Subcommittee and the Cross Country Committee is requested. He noted that if this proposal is accepted, event organizing proposals from organizers interested in hosting the 2006 (Central) and the 2007 (Mountain) Junior Olympics will be required by January 1, 2004.

Mr. Jobe stated that, from his perspective as a member of the Organizing Committee for the 2005 Junior Olympics, awarding the event two years ahead of time is not enough time to be totally effective. He stated that it is already apparent to them that they will need all of the two years they have to prepare for the event.

Mr. Dorris expressed his concern in that an organizer may be awarded the event three years in advance, but that the conditions within the club or at the venue may be totally different a year or two after they have been awarded the event.

Mr. Kapala agreed, stating that more established venues will be more likely to get the event in the future, and that it may be more challenging to incorporate new sites, which would grow skiing in new communities. However, he stated that he supports the move, but that the process also needs to be reviewed continually. He added that a part of the process must be that the Officials Subcommittee must also review the bids prior to the Junior Working Group meeting, so they can provide their comments.

Mr. Bodensteiner stated that the quality of the event must be of primary concern, since this event is a cornerstone of the junior program, even if it means a new site can't be developed quite as quickly.

Mr. Sweeney noted that the Junior Olympics also can drive the further development of existing top-level sites, as was the case this last year in Fairbanks. He stated that established venues preparing for the Junior Olympics can also provide a high-quality home for other competitions, such as the NCAA championships, which is the case with the Auburn Ski club this year.

Mr. Jobe noted that a three year in advance process also allows the organizing committees more of an opportunity to organize sufficient test events.

Mr. Dorris stated that there are clear signals from the organizers that this is a good move.

Mr. Bodensteiner made a motion to accept the proposal, and was seconded by Mr. Sterling.

Motion carries.

8. Review of National Calendar (Techniques and Distances)

The Members reviewed the National Calendars for the 2004, 2005 and 2006 seasons, which are presented here:

CALENDAR DRAFT - 2004

Date	Location	Comments
Nov. 8-9	Fairbanks, AK ??	Nor/Am Opener Sprint F/Pursuit
Nov. 15-16	Anchorage, AK	Nor/Am 5/10km C, 5/10km F
Nov. 28-29	West Yellowstone, MT	Nor/Am 10/15km C, Sprint F
Dec. 6-7	Breckenridge, CO	NRL 10/10km F, 10/10km C
Dec. 13-14	Wolverine, MI	NRL TBD
Dec. 13, 14, 17, 20, 21	Soldier Hollow, UT	Nor/Am 5/10km C, Sprint C, 10/15km F, 5/10km F, 15/30km Pursuit
Dec. 20	Anchorage, AK	NRL Besh Cup, TBD
Dec. 21	Eagle River, AK	NRL Besh Cup, TBD
Dec. 29-30	Presque Isle, ME	Nor/Am 10/10km C Sprint F
Jan. 3-4	Mt. Bachelor, OR	NRL TBD
Jan. 3-11	Rumford, ME	U.S. Nationals – Nor/Am Day 1: 15/30km C Day 3: 5/10km C Day 4: 5/10km F Day 6: Sprint F Day 9: 30/50km F Mass-start
Jan. 17-18	Mt. Itasca, MN	Nor/Am 10/15km C mass-start, 5/10km F
Jan. 17-18	Kenai Peninsula, AK	NRL Besh Cup, TBD
Jan. 17-18	Bogus Basin, ID	NRL/JOQ 5/10km F, 10/10km C
Jan. 21-25	Telemark, WI	Nor/Am 5/10km F, 10/15km C mass-start, Sprint
Jan. 23-24	Soldier Hollow, UT	FIS/NRL (U. of Utah Invite) 5/10km C, 10/15km F mass-start
Jan. 24-25	Anthony Lakes, OR	NRL TND
Jan. 31-Feb. 1	Bozeman, MT	NRL/JOQ Sprint F, 10/15km C
Feb. 2-8	Stryn, NOR	World Junior Championships
Feb. 6	Stowe, VT	UVM Carnival 5/10km C NRL

Date	Location	Comments
Feb. 7-8	Battle Creek, MN	NRL TBD
Feb. 7-8	Leavenworth, WA	NRL TBD
Feb. 8-9	Fairbanks, AK	NRL Besh Cup, TBD
Feb. 11-15	Soldier Hollow, UT	U-23 World Championship Sprint F, Pursuit, 15/30km F Mass- start, Sprint Relay C
Feb. 14-15	Soldier Hollow, UT	NRL/JOQ 10/15km F, 5/10km C
Feb. 21	Hayward, WI	American Birkebeiner 52km F
Feb. 20-21	Lake Eldora, CO	5/10km C mass-start, 10/15km F
Mar. 5-7	Soda Springs, CA	NCAA Championships 5/10km C, 15/20km F Mass-start
Mar. 13-21	Europe	OPA Cup
Mar. 8-13	Lake Placid, NY	JOs
Mar. 20-28	Winter Park, CO	International Spring Series Sprint C 5/10km C 15/30km Pursuit 10/15km F Mass-start National Sprint Relay F

2005

Date	Location	Comments
Nov. 6-7	Fairbanks, AK	Nor/Am Opener 5+5km/7.5+7.5km Pursuit Sprint F
Nov. 13-14	Anchorage, AK	Nor/Am 5/10km C, 5/10km F
Nov. 26-27	West Yellowstone, MT	Nor/Am 10/15km F, Sprint C
Dec. 4-5	TBD	Nor/Am 5/10km C, 5+5/7.5+7.5km Pursuit
Dec. 11, 12, 15, 18, 19	Soldier Hollow, UT	Nor/Am 5/10km C, 10/15km F, Sprint C, 5/10km F, 7.5+7.5/15+15km Pursuit
Dec. 30-31	Presque Isle, ME	Nor/Am 10/10km C, Sprint F
Jan. 8-16	TBD	U.S. Nationals – Nor/Am Day 1: 15/30km F Day 3: 5/10km C Day 4: 5/10km F Day 6: Sprint C Day 9: 30/50km C Mass-start
Jan. 22-23	TBD	Nor/Am 5/10km C, 10/15km F mass-start
Jan. 26, 29, 30	Telemark, WI	Nor/Am Sprint, 5/10km F, 10/15km C mass-start
Jan. 31-Feb. 6	TBD	World Junior Championships/ U-23 Championships??
Feb. 12-13	Europe/Scandinavia	OPA/Scando-Cup
Feb. 16-27	Oberstdorf, GER	World Ski Championships
Feb. 19	Hayward, WI	American Birkebeiner 52km F
Feb. 19-20	Europe/Scandinavia	OPA/Scando-Cup
Feb. 26-27	Europe/Scandinavia	OPA/Scando Cup
Mar. 4-6	TBD	NCAA Championships 5/10km F, 15/20km C Mass-start
Mar. 4-5	Europe/Scandinavia	OPA/Scando Cup
Mar. 7-12	Soda Springs, CA (to be confirmed by CCC)	JOs
Mar. 26-Apr. 2	TBD	International Spring Series Sprint F 5/10km F 5+5/7.5/7.5km Pursuit 10/15km C Mass-start National Sprint Relay C

2006

Date	Location	Comments
Nov. 5-6	Fairbanks, AK	Nor/Am Opener 5+5/7.5+7.5km Pursuit/Sprint
Nov. 12-13	Anchorage, AK	Nor/Am 5/10km C, 5/10km F
Nov. 25-26	West Yellowstone, MT	Nor/Am 10/15km C, Sprint F
Dec. 3, 4	TBD	Nor/Am 10/15km F, Pursuit
Dec. 10, 11, 14, 17, 18	Soldier Hollow, UT	Nor/Am 5/10km F, Sprint F, 10/15km C, 5/10km C, 7.5+7.5/15+15km Pursuit
Dec. 31-Jan. 1	Presque Isle, ME	Nor/Am 10/10km C, Sprint F
Jan. 7-15	West USA	U.S. Nationals – Nor/Am Day 1: 15/30km C Day 3: 5/10km C Day 4: 5/10km F Day 6: Sprint F Day 9: 30/50km F Mass-start
Jan. 21, 22	TBD	Nor/Am 5/10km C, 10/15km F mass-start
Jan. 25, 28, 29	Telemark, WI	Nor/Am Sprint, 5/10km F, 10/15km C mass-start
TBD	Kranjska-Gora, SLO	World Junior Championships/ U-23 Championships??
Feb. 10-26	Torino, ITA	Olympic Games
Feb. 11-12	Europe/Scandinavia	OPA/Scando-Cup
Feb. 18	Hayward, WI	American Birkebeiner 52km F
Feb. 18-19	Europe/Scandinavia	OPA/Scando-Cup
Feb. 25-26	Europe/Scandinavia	OPA/Scando Cup
Mar. 3-5	TBD	NCAA Championships 5/10km F, 15/20km C Mass-start
Mar. 4-5	Europe/Scandinavia	OPA/Scando Cup
Mar. 6-11	Central Division	Jos
Mar. 25-31	TBD	International Spring Series Sprint C 5/10km C 7.5+7.5/15+15km Pursuit 10/15km F Mass-start National Sprint Relay F

9. Review Proposal to Lengthen Nor/Am Season

Mr. Klein stated his opinion that the Nor/Am should be lengthened through the month of February. He stated that, after the conclusion of the Nor/Am in mid-January, there isn't much for the top athletes to do if they aren't competing in Europe.

Ms. Kemppe shared this opinion, and also suggested that some of the marathon competitions be incorporated into the Nor/Am. She also recommended that Sprint Relays, as a new World Championship discipline, also be incorporated somehow into the Nor/Am. She stated that these are very tactical events, with very few opportunities to compete in them.

Mr. Grover expressed concern that the addition of relays would reduce the number of team qualification opportunities for athletes.

Mr. Bodensteiner stated that he would be happy to try and find organizers who would be willing to extend the Nor/Am season, but that there isn't much interest from the organizers in running high-level competitions, which require a significant financial investment, when they know that the best skiers will be gone for the World Championships/Olympics, the U23 Championships, the and the Junior Worlds. He also stated that NCAA racing is in full swing at that time, and that many of the athletes not racing in Europe are also committed at that time to racing on the marathon circuit for their sponsors. He stated it would likely be unwise to try and run Nor/Am events when there wasn't some level of assurance that the best athletes would be in attendance. He stated that a risk may also be that the series may be spread too thin by lengthening it, and that it would affect the early season competitions, which is still where the most meaningful races are. He stated that he and Mr. Kapala had discussed ways in which the Boulder Mountain Tour could be incorporated into the Nor/Am as the Finals, but that the sponsor and revenue issues were too tough to tackle, and they both agreed that a marathon race of that sort isn't suited to the series. He stated that the marathons by themselves are excellent competitions, and that being a part of a broader series, such as the Nor/Am, hasn't proven to bring much more value at all to those competitions.

Mr. Lutter assigned a working group of Mr. Gerlach, Ms. Kemppe, Mr. Klein and Mr. Bodensteiner to explore the issue more, and to consider the possibility of adding sprint relays to the calendar, and to report back to the Subcommittee.

10. Review Presque Isle Nor/Am Proposal

Mr. Lutter stated the Subcommittee needed to review the addition of this event to the calendar, since it has not appeared on any previous drafts considered by the Members, and that, while this event provides good flow for the calendar this year, as a lead in to the Nationals in Rumford, the Nationals won't be in the East every year, and the event will then be a stand-alone. However, he stated, this is the only opportunity that has presented itself to bring the Nor/Am to the East.

Mr. Kapala made a motion to accept the addition of this event, and was seconded by Mr. Klein.

Motion carries.

11. Review Anchorage Nor/Am Proposal

Mr. Lutter explained that the Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage has proposed a Nor/Am competition at Kincaid Park for the second weekend of November. However, he stated, their snow data shows that only about 50% of the years have snow on that weekend. Matt Pauli, who is organizing the event, has also found a more reliable backup site at Arctic Valley, within an hour's drive from Anchorage.

Understanding the snow conditions, understanding that the World Cup racers will have departed for Europe at this time, and understanding that the U.S. Development Team skiers do not normally attend the early-season races in Anchorage, Mr. Lutter asked the Subcommittee to provide guidance regarding whether or not to place this race on the Nor/Am calendar.

The Members recommended that the organizers also investigate other backup site possibilities, and that they also consider a partnership with Fairbanks to use them as a primary backup site.

Mr. Kapala made a motion to move forward with the event, and was seconded by Mr. Sterling.

Motion carries.

12. Review Lengths of Sprint Events at U.S. Nationals

No discussion or decisions.

13. Selection of Spring Series Organizer - 2004

Mr. Lutter presented the bids of Bolton Valley, VT and Winter Park, CO to host the event to the Members. After their review and thorough discussion, including the issue of hosting the event at a high altitude in Winter Park, Mr. Kapala made a motion to accept the bid to host the event from Winter Park, CO, and he was seconded by Mr. Sterling.

Motion carries.

14. Two Spring Series?

Mr. Lutter introduced the question regarding whether or not to sanction two FIS International Spring Series, one to follow another in a different region.

Ms. Kemppele stated that a division of the Spring Series into two events at two venues dilutes the strength of the field in both series'.

Mr. Kapala, a longtime organizer of the Spring Series, stated that one site and one series is necessary to maintain the high level of the event.

No decision was made to authorize the sanctioning of a second Spring Series.

15. National Coaches' Conference 2003

Mr. Grover gave an overview of the National Coaches' Conference, which will be held at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, June 27-29. He explained that the invitation process will remain the same, with each region nominating the coaches who will attend. Mr. Grover noted the positive discussion and feedback from the Members.

May 17, 9:45am-11:00am Cross Country Committee

Mr. Todd reconvened the Cross Country Committee by noting the same members present, and declaring a quorum. He said that he was very impressed by the work that went on within the subcommittees.

He then turned over the floor to Mr. Aalberg, Chairman of the Officials Subcommittee to report.

Proposals from Officials Subcommittee

Mr. Aalberg reported that the decision of the Officials Subcommittee is to treat FIS guidelines as rules. He gave the example that in marathons, there should be no disqualification for commercial markings violations, but instead, the Jury should assess monetary fines. Additionally, he stated that ties in the heats of sprint events (except the Finals) will be split by qualification times.

Mr. Aalberg made a motion that by year 2004, bids for Nor/Am, Junior Olympics and National Championship events are not accepted without course data (stadium layout, course plan/profile) and an initial course review by the USSA Officials' Committee, and was seconded by Mr. Kruse.

In discussion, Mr. Sterling noted that with Junior Olympic sites now bidding three years in advance, this puts the process for them out even longer.

Mr. Kapala agreed with this point, but he also agreed with the principle of the motion, and expressed his feeling that this would help to improve the quality of the bids, and the event.

Motion carries.

Mr. Aalberg made a motion that it be a requirement for NRL competition organizers to have a level 2 (or higher) certified TD officiate the race, and cover TD expenses as per the USSA competition rules. Mr. Kapala seconded the motion.

Motion carries.

Reports from Officials Subcommittee

Mr. Aalberg reported on the assignments of the Technical Delegates for the 2004 season. He also reported that a FIS TD seminar will take place in Canada this year, and that he will follow up at a later date with specific information.

With the end of the report, Mr. Todd then turned the floor over to Mr. Lutter, Chairman of the Coaches' Subcommittee, for his report.

Proposals from Coaches' Subcommittee

Mr. Lutter reported on the bid status of the Auburn Ski Club to host the 2005 Junior Olympics.

Mr. Kapala made a motion to award the 2005 Junior Olympics to the Auburn Ski Club, and was seconded by Mr. Dorris.

Motion carries.

Mr. Lutter gave an overview of the presentation made by the representatives of the High Plains District, and of the decision of the Subcommittee.

Mr. Kapala made a motion to include the High Plains District into the Junior Olympic program, and was seconded by Mr. Sterling.

Motion carries.

Mr. Lutter reported that the Subcommittee decided to recommend that the Junior Olympics be awarded three years in advance, effective January 1, when information from the bid committees for the 2006 and 2007 event would be due, and made a motion to accept this recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sterling.

Motion carries.

Reports from Coaches' Subcommittee

Mr. Lutter reported that the Junior World Championship selection criteria would, in principle, be the same as was used last season, with the exception of the funding standards, which he explained.

He reported that there would be no significant changes to the selection methods for the Junior Scandinavian Cup, but that the trip to the event would only happen if it could reasonably guaranteed that the athletes can absorb the expenses, with a decision set for approximately December 1.

He reported on the National Calendar, and the additions and modifications made to it.

He reported on changes to the way the National Ranking List reports sprint and distance results, and on the National Coaches' Conference, 2003.

Next Meeting

Mr. Bodensteiner recommended that, based on the limited agenda items presented in recent fall meetings, the next meeting take place during the USSA Congress, May 2004 in Park City, UT.

Mr. Todd added that a meeting of the Executive Committee would likely take place in conjunction with one of the Nor/Am events in the early winter.

Mr. Kapala expressed his wishes that any programming issues or decisions brought up at the Executive meeting should be brought before the entire Committee for their consideration, and also stated that the working groups must also remain engaged. Additionally, he stated that it may be a good idea to share the bid information for future events with the Executive Committee first.

Mr. Bodensteiner agreed, and stated that the meeting of the Executive Committee would likely focus on coordination of the work of the Committee and working groups.

6. Selection of Representative to Board of Directors

Mr. Bodensteiner noted that one item, which was not on the agenda, but which must be dealt with now, is the selection of the representative of the Committee who will serve on the Board of Directors for the next two years.

Mr. Kapala made a motion that Lee Todd be designated as the representative to the Board, and was seconded by Mr. Engen.

Motion carries.

With no further business, Mr. Todd, Chairman of the Cross Country Committee, declared the meeting closed.