

SKI JUMPING/NORDIC COMBINED SPORT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The Yarrow Hotel & Conference Center, Park City, UT
May 16-17, 2003

May 16, 8:15 am – 3:00 pm

1. Call to Order

Alan Johnson, Chairman of the Ski Jumping/Nordic Combined Committee opened the meeting by thanking the members for their attendance, and their leadership. He stated exciting progress in the athletic programs was seen this year, of course culminating with a World Championship in Nordic combined. He thanked the Committee for their work, which has supported the athletes and coaches to that end. He stated that this was, however, a season of highs and lows. He stated that Clint Jones started the season on a high note, finishing the Summer Grand Prix ranked second in the world, the Nordic combined team kept the momentum going with four World Cup podiums and a win in Val di Fiemme, but at the end of the season, we learned that Alan Alborn would retire from the sport, and that the programs faced the poor economy nationwide which led to significant budget cuts. He reported that the USSA staff, he believed, has found innovative ways to squeeze more value out of the resources they have to work with, and stated that those methods would be reported on in this meeting.

Mr. Johnson reported that this season saw an 8% growth in ski jumping membership within the organization, which indicates that the sport is growing. He stated that the upcoming season will be an exciting one, with four summer Continental Cup competitions taking place in North America, and four winter Continental Cups taking place in the U.S. He stated that no other nation except perhaps Germany has more Continental Cups taking place on their home soil. He stated that February would also mark the return of the ski jumping World Cup to the United States. He stated his hope that several members of the Committee can work with the organizing committee, and be a part of the success that event will be.

Mr. Johnson stated that the World Ranking List for women continues to develop, with now women from nine nations on that list. He stated with pride that U.S. women beat Austria in the rankings for the first time ever.

Mr. Johnson also noted that he has seen good progress in the clubs across the country in terms of coaching and programming, and thanked the club leaders for their work.

2. Roll Call

The following Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined Committee members were recognized as being present:

Alan Johnson (Chairman)	Term limit: Spring '03
Chuck Heckert (Divisional Representative)	Term limit: Spring '04
Larry Stone (Athlete Programs)	Term limit: Spring '04
Matt Laue (Athlete)	Term limit: Spring '04
Jim Holland (Athlete)	Term limit: Spring '04
Kari Ylianttila (Jumping Head Coach)	Term limit: by employment
Bard Elden (Combined Head Coach)	Term limit: by employment
Art Tokle (Officials)	Term limit: Spring '04

Mr. Johnson recognized the following Committee members as absent:

Greg Boester (Athlete)
Greg Lunde (Calendar)

Term limit: Spring '05
Term limit: Spring '04

3. Additions to the Agenda

Mr. Johnson noted that the agenda had been sent to the Committee members on April 14 for their approval, and no comments were registered.

Mr. Stone stated that he had received a request in the past few days to review a proposal relating to the status of a Masters' class at the U.S. Championships. This additional agenda point was **accepted**.

4. Approval of Minutes, Spring Congress '02

Mr. Johnson stated that the minutes have been distributed to the Committee and Subcommittee members for their review and comment.

Mr. Heckert made a motion to accept the minutes, and was seconded by Mr. Holland.

Mr. Tokle stated that in the section regarding the requirement of National Championship officials to attend and officials' clinic, the word "TD" should be changed to "official". This change was **accepted** into the motion.

Motion carries.

5. Nomination and Election Process for Chairman and Board Member

Luke Bodensteiner stated that the term of the Chairman will expire after this meeting. He stated that its members select the Chairman of the Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined Committee. He proposed that a nominating period would begin shortly after the conclusion of this meeting, and last for approximately a month. After the nominating period, if more than one individual has been nominated, Mr. Bodensteiner stated that he would call for an email vote. The members accepted the process described.

Mr. Bodensteiner stated that Mr. Johnson is eligible for another two-year term as Chairman of the Committee.

6. Program Report

Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Bodensteiner for his program report.

Mr. Bodensteiner stated that for the past several years, the ski jumping and Nordic combined programs have focused on and reported on the growth of the athletic programs, and on program additions proposed by the coaches. He stated that unfortunately this year, he will report about the changes that have resulted in a decreased scope of programming, and on the changes to the program based on changes to the budget. He stated that he would leave the reporting on successes of teams left to coaches, since they are far more qualified to do so than he.

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 make some significant cutbacks. 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, which are winning a medal in ski jumping and three medals in Nordic combined in Torino, 2006. He stated that the next priority was to protect the development level programs for those teams who have shown high-level performance, specifically Junior World Championship medals or overall championships at the World Cup B or Continental Cup level. 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 through these cuts, the Nordic combined programming for athletes, in terms of camps and competitions, was protected to a large degree, but they still faced some major changes, specifically the loss of Fast Skis program, which led to the laying off of one of their top technicians. He stated that while this would have an impact on the top team this year, they hoped they could at least maintain the level they are at with ski service now, even as their competition continues to move forward. He stated that with no World Championship or Olympics this year, the risk was reduced, and he stated that, in the future, it will likely be a top priority of the Nordic combined program to re-launch Fast Skis, and to quickly make up lost ground leading to the Olympics.

He also stated that the Nordic combined program saw a reduction of the direct financial support provided to the athletes, so they will have to shoulder a bit more of the load themselves, and that other programs have been tightened down. As an example, he stated that a camp normally held in Europe will now be held at home, and the athletes in general will be spending more time training in Park City.

He stated that there were also major changes experienced by the jumping program. He stated that the staff at the top-end will remain the same with Kari as Head coach and Matt as his assistant. He stated, however, that Linda Johnson was unfortunately a victim of the layoffs, and the administrative duties of the program were now consolidated into Katie Gould's and his normal responsibilities, with Ms. Gould working with the team and some club coaches on team and athlete management, and Mr. Bodensteiner working with all programming items. He stated that the third coaching position, which was previously held by Riku Ayri is simply not being re-hired, so fortunately there are no more layoffs there.

He stated that the funding for the development group had been eliminated, but that the plan is for the group to continue to function, albeit not as a funded or named group. He stated that Kari and Matt have been laying plans to offer club and coaching support, support in the areas of sports science, strength and conditioning, nutrition, facility use, testing, psychology, etc. to those top athletes committed enough to take advantage of the resources.

He stated that two Continental Cup projects in Europe were also eliminated, but that the door to Continental Cup and World Cup competition was still open thanks to the hosting of Continental Cup events in Park City, Calgary, Westby and Iron Mountain, and a World Cup in Park City, through which athletes will be able to take advantage of the additional nation's group quota. He stated that the opportunity for one additional athlete to qualify for several World Cup periods, bringing the team to its maximum quota, was also available. He stated that qualification for World Cup positions is to be done through Continental Cup and SuperTour events. He stated that success at the Continental Cup and in domestic competition would move an athlete up the pipeline.

He stated that he can't anticipate all of the Committee members' questions, he stated that some people have asked why the team continues to employ two coaches for one athlete on the team, and two on the World Cup. He stated that the plan there is to keep services at the top-end the same, so that we can meet our goal of winning one medal in Torino 2006. He stated that to deliver a top program for one athlete or four athletes takes basically the same tools. He stated that it still takes coaching, sports science, nutrition, psychology, strength coaches and more, and

that there aren't really any economies of scale there. He also stated that retaining two coaches allows the team to maintain a steady platform to grow from. He stated that the goal is not to have a one-person team forever. He stated that we want to grow quickly, but growth is dependent on high-level performance by the athletes internationally. He stated that kids have to distinguish themselves in domestic competition, and then at the Continental Cup level. He stated that when kids are successful at the different levels of competition, they will move up, and when they get a chance to participate in the World Cup and are successful there, they will stay there.

Mr. Bodensteiner then explained the launch of the SuperTour. He stated that there are currently 17-18 events on the calendar, with the only open issue being the dates for Eau Claire, which will affect the total number of races. He stated that the total prize purse for the season will be roughly \$18,000, including a \$1,000 bonus for the overall winner. He stated that the strategy with this program is to build a vibrant domestic calendar, which has been a hole in the pipeline up to this point. He stated that the hope is to give more athletes more of a reason to compete, and to motivate them. He stated that it is his belief that it will be fun to be a ski jumper this winter, because the SuperTour will put cash into kid's pockets, so if they are as good as they say they are, they'll win money, advance in to the Continental Cup and World Cup, and earn funding for their training on the fly. He stated that the athletes would have money to support their training, and also competition opportunities through their clubs.

He stated that the 2004 calendar is mostly fixed at this point, and a job for the Committee will be to begin to sketch out the 05 and 06 calendars. He stated that of most concern on these calendars are the competition dates, and not, at this point, the sites, and once those backbones are proposed, USSA staff will work in partnership with the organizers to find those best suited for each weekend, and will work with them to continue to grow the series.

He stated that one of the interesting problems we'll encounter this year is that there is no prize money available for the Nordic combined events, or for the women's class. He stated that, unfortunately, there isn't currently a solution for this, so this is an area to address through the growth of the SuperTour in future seasons.

He stated that the selection criteria for Continental Cup and World Cup is clearly spelled out, and has been presented to the Committee and Subcommittee members for their advice.

He stated that, essentially, the focus of the program has shifted from sending kids sporadically into competition in Europe at a level where they haven't always shown they can perform consistently at a high level, to building our own high-level competition, so kids can compete more often and with less expense.

Mr. Johnson stated that there are many positive reasons for instituting the SuperTour. He stated that an athlete can easily win enough funding each weekend to cover their expenses for trips that, last year, they were paying for themselves. He stated that this ensures for the organizers that the quality of the field in their competitions is high, and gives them something additional to promote. He stated his hope that the larger and more established events on the calendar will step up and award even more prize money than is guaranteed by the minimum requirement. He stated that this is a creative and innovative way of developing athletes when we don't have the resources necessary to do so directly. He also stated that this gives many athletes more of an opportunity to stay with their home clubs, which is something some of the clubs have asked for several times in the past.

Mr. Stone expressed his concern that the event subsidy paid by USSA to the organizers of the Junior Olympics had been cut.

Mr. Bodensteiner stated that this was an issue to keep an eye on, but not one that would be an issue this year, as the organizers of the JOs in Anchorage in 2004 have submitted a budget with their bid which shows the event to break even without the additional subsidy.

Mr. Holland stated that the perceived status of the SuperTour by the athletes who compete in it will be key to the success of the series, so the promotion plan around the event will be important. He also stated his support, noting that this series will likely keep athletes from dropping out of the sport so quickly, and will aid in the retention of athletes.

Mr. Bodensteiner thanked Mr. Holland for his input, noting that currently the PR plan for the series is under development, but that his comments would be taken into account.

Mr. Wilson noted that promotion around the SuperTour was really a job for the entire ski jumping community, especially divisions and club coaches, to promote the importance of the events to their athletes.

Mr. Holland stated that the process for competition advancement also needed to be very clear to the athletes.

Mike Keuhler asked if there was any incentive for the athletes to make sure they ski the entire series.

Mr. Bodensteiner stated that an award of \$1,000 was available to the overall winner, and that some of the team selection procedures are tied to overall performance. He stated that consistent, long-term success is going to be a key to moving up the pipeline.

Mr. Warner stated that he, as the organizer of the Flaming Leaves tournament, which is now a part of the SuperTour, has been paying prize money at the meet for several years with no noticeable improvement in the quality of the field. However, he stated, field quality will increase if each of the SuperTour organizers augment the prize money schedule, and especially if they pay deeper than 5th place.

Chris Gilbertson pointed out that the selection criteria might not always select the best athlete. He asked if, when an athlete qualifies to compete in Europe, would they also miss some of the important qualification competitions.

Mr. Bodensteiner said that this was a good point, and that at one point in the season, when an athlete qualifies for the 4-Hills Tournament, he will miss the qualifying competitions for the next trip to the World Cup in Japan. However, he stated, that if the athlete competing at the 4-Hills performs well and scores World Cup points, he will be qualified automatically for the competitions in Japan, and will be selected ahead of the athlete trying to qualify domestically.

7. Ski Jumping Team Update

Mr. Ylianttila presented a report on the ski jumping team. He reviewed the team's goals for the season, and performance compared to those goals. He stated that the overall goal remains to be to win a medal in Torino 2006, with a top-6 result the goal for the World Championships in 2005. He said the team failed to meet its goals for Continental Cup and the Junior World Championships, but that Clint's performance in the Summer Grand Prix helped the team to meet its goals at the highest level.

He stated that the residence program for the three team athletes last year was effective, stating that the program lasted from June until November, providing a consistent jumping program of 4-5 sessions a week, with total jumps of 482, 541, and 648 for each athlete respectively. He stated that consistent physical training was done under the supervision of the sports science department, but that a continuing problem is the quality of training when the athletes are away from the residence program and at home. He stated that sports science provided support with testing, training programs and nutrition planning. He stated that additionally, the athletes had four

contacts with their sport psychologist in addition to email contact. He stated that injuries and surgeries for Alan Alborn and Tommy Schwall definitely hurt performance. He stated that, nonetheless, this was still a good and constructive summer program where great technical and physical improvements were made, witnessed by excellent results at the Summer Grand Prix.

Mr. Ylianttila stated that going into the winter season, there was an easy transition onto the snow, with only a two weeks break in training. He stated, however, that there were some coaching problems with the new assistant coach, which stemmed from a difference in feedback methods and philosophy. He stated that the opening in Kuusamo was still somehow good, with a 17th and 22nd place; after that, however, some of the athletes got sick, which led to a physical collapse. Additionally, after the summer, the athletes had high expectations, and when results in the winter failed to come, the athletes became frustrated. Once the athletes lost confidence, from that point on everything was downhill, and the athletes were not experienced enough to turn it around in a short time in between the competitions. He stated that there was a break in competing and training at the beginning of January, which was a good time to re-group and recover, where the team was back in Park City for two and a half weeks training. This helped the athletes get back to a higher technical jumping level in training, but unfortunately this did not translate into the competitions!

He stated that, after the World Championships, the rest of the season was better, but still inconsistent in terms of competition performance. He stated that the best result of the season in the last competition, Planica, with a 13th place.

Mr. Ylianttila then reported on the results of the physical testing with the teams, through a series of graphs, and then explained his team goals for the season, which include winning an Olympic medal in 2006, a top-6 individual finish in the 2005 World Championships as well as a top-8 finish in the team event, a top-10 finish at the World Ski Flying Championships, one top-30 result and a top-10 team finish at the 2004 Junior World Championships, one podium finish and two top-6 finishes during the World Cup season, one athlete in the top-15 in the World Cup overall, and two top-25 finishes in the Alpen Cup in the fall of 2003.

Mr. Ylianttila closed his presentation by giving an overview of the training plan for the year, including the camp and competition plan.

8. Nordic Combined Team Update

Mr. Elden gave a report on the Nordic combined team.

Mr. Elden highlighted the accomplishments of the team, noting four of the six team goals for the season were accomplished, including the winning of a medal at the World Championships. He noted the reasons for these accomplishments, including the development of a good team environment and atmosphere, overall good and productive environment at all levels, that the coaches self motivation, team and self discipline, team and individual goal setting, and dedication from all. He stated that the staff environment was also good, with productive and motivated staff, from bosses to grass roots, Luke, Katie Gould, coaches and service, and that everybody is willing to give 100%, it's more than just a job for everybody.

He stated that the residence program in Park City was clearly another key, with consistency in training, world-class facilities, and all resources in Park City or vicinity. He stated that the stipend paid to the athletes enables the athletes to commit 100% to skiing, ensures a minimum income (they don't really have a chance of other income, unless they work part time), and helps the athletes live in Park City year round.

He stated that the sport science program, with ongoing physical training, testing and monitoring with sport science staff, world class facilities for physical training and testing, and world class

assistance from sports science staff was extremely helpful, as was the Fast Skis project, with ongoing fast ski projects, grinds, equipment pick, and wax, and good communication between the service men in XC and NC, who worked hard to stay on the cutting edge of service technology. He stated that the camps were balanced between jumping, cross country, and time in Park City. He stated that the camps were productive, gave the athletes a change of environment, different hills, on snow training, alternative activities, and contact with top international athletes through the Summer Grand Prix.

He stated that feedback technology was used extensively, with continued and improved video use. He stated that Dart Trainer enabled the coaches to extend the feedback to computers, improve data collection for coaches, and that the athletes could store videos on their own computers. This provided a better comparison potential with different video clips.

He stated that equipment, as always, is a major point of focus. He stated that the team did two visits to the Meininger factory where the team received custom made suits for the first time, making a huge impact, enabling the team to stay on top of the latest innovations regarding suits. He also stated that skis, and specifically a great relationship with Fischer and their service men contributed significantly to winning gold.

He stated the team's 2004 goals, which include the following for the World Cup overall; 1 x top 5, 3 x top 10, 4 x top 3, 6 x top 40, and 10 x top 100. He also stated that a team goal is to win a medal in the team event at the Junior Worlds. In 2005, the team goal is to win both an individual and a team medal at the World Championships, and in 2006, to win two individuals and a team medal at the Olympics.

He explained the camp and competition plans, and presented the team members and staff.

He stated that, moving forward, the team will keep and develop a productive environment, increased international experience for development athletes, optimize communication on all levels (admin, coaches, athletes, service, sports science, etc.), have the athletes increase self discipline and ownership of teams future success, and to re-initiate/develop the faster ski program focused on ski, base material, structure, wax. Additionally, the team will maintain and improve all lines of communication internally (admin, coaches, athletes, sports science etc.), utilize each member of the staff optimally, using their knowledge in their field, set standards of behavior, such as goal orientation, high motivation, team and self discipline, and encourage the athletes to take responsibility for their own careers by using the coaches and other resources for their success.

Regarding technique, he stated that they will continue to evolve the already established team technique philosophy, exchange experience and knowledge between USSA coaches, stay on top of cutting edge technique, and use of all available feedback technology such as video and computer.

Regarding ski service, he stated that they would continue to improve communication between service team, coaches and athletes on ski selection, develop an overall system between XC and NC, communicate and share protocols for testing and racing: skis, grinds, and wax, continue the fast ski program, finding or developing new equipment for testing of skis, bases and grinds, and research new materials. He stated that they would continue to stay on top of all development of jump suits and jump skis and jump suits.

Concerning development, he stated that it is their desire to merge the World Cup A and B teams as much as possible in prep phase through a coaching exchange between teams, more internal competition and flow of athletes between the teams.

He stated that it is their plan to have a youth program with 2-3 camps with the national team with selected athletes and their coaches. The purpose of these, he stated, is to create a combination of athlete scouting and coaches education, to reward club athletes, and to make partnerships with clubs and share knowledge.

9. Consider 2004 Jr. Olympics Proposal from the Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage

Mr. Johnson presented a proposal from the Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage to host the 2004 Junior Olympics, which was in accordance with the approved rotation.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposal.

Motion carries.

10. Consider Use of Divisional Officials for North American Junior Championships

Mr. Johnson stated that it was proposed that the current requirements for out-of-division officials be examined in comparison to the revenues of the event. He stated that the current requirement for bringing judges from outside the division may make the expenses for the event exceed the revenues, and he expressed his concern that organizers in the future will not be able to host the event. He then turned the floor over to Todd Wilson.

Mr. Wilson, who is scheduled to be the organizer of the next North American Junior Championships stated that with a smaller field size than the Junior Olympics, he is unable to make the budget for the event balance with the current judging requirements.

This issue was referred to the Officials' Subcommittee, tasked with finding a solution, and coming back to the Committee with a workable proposal.

Mr. Johnson then adjourned the meeting to receive reports from Ms. Sheryl Fine, Mr. Tom Kelly, and Mr. Alan Ashley.

May 16, 2003

1:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Official's Subcommittee

1. FIS ICR New Guidelines
2. Updates to USSA Rulebook
3. Ski Jumping Engineering Report
4. TD and Judges Assignments 2004

May 16, 2003 - 1:30 – 6:00 pm
Athletic Programs and Calendar Planning Subcommittee

1. Review 2004 National Calendar - The final version of the 2004 calendar is presented:

2004 CALENDAR - DRAFT

Date	Location	Jumping	Nordic Combined	Comments
June 21-22	Colerain, MN	K-65 Jr NRL #1 K-65 Jr NRL #2		
July 4 (2 comps)	Lake Placid, NY	K-90 Sr NRL #1 K-90 Sr NRL #2		SuperTour COCJ Qualifier
July 19-20	Calgary, CAN	K-90 K-90		COCJ
July 26-27	Park City, UT	K-90 Sr. NRL #3 K-120 Sr. NRL #4		COCJ
Aug. 16-17	Park City, UT	K-90 Jr NRL #3 K-90 Jr NRL #4		Alpen Cup Qualifier
Sept. 20-21	Fox River Grove, IL (Colerain as backup)	K-75 Jr NRL #5 K-75 Jr NRL #6		SuperTour/Alpen Cup Qualifier
Oct. 10-11	Lake Placid, NY	K-90 SR NRL #5 K-90 SR NRL #6		SuperTour/Flaming Leaves
Nov. 29-30	Park City, UT	K-90 K-120	Individual	SuperTour
Dec. 6-7	Steamboat Springs, CO	K-90 Jr. NRL #1 K-120 Sr. NRL #1	Individual	SuperTour
Dec. 30-31	Lake Placid, NY	K-90 Jr. NRL #2 K-120 Jr. NRL #3/ Sr. NRL #2	Mass-start 7.5km Sprint	SuperTour Junior World Championship Trials (K-90 only)
Jan. 7-10	Steamboat Springs, CO	K-90 Jr. NRL #4 K-114 Team	Individual Team	North American Championships/ World Junior Trials (K-90 only)
Jan. 17-18	Steamboat Springs, CO	K-90 K-114	Individual	SuperTour
Feb. 2-8	Stryn, NOR	K-90 Team	Sprint Individual Team	World Junior Championships
Feb. 6-7 or Feb. 13	Eau Claire, WI	K-90 K-90		SuperTour
Feb. 14-15	Westby, WI	K-120 K-120		Continental Cup
Feb. 21-22	Iron Mountain, MI	K-120 Sr. NRL #3 K-120 Sr. NRL #4		Continental Cup
Feb. 28-29	Park City, UT	K-120 K-120		World Cup
Mar. 3-6	Anchorage, AK	K-65 K-65 Team	Sprint Individual Team Sprint	USSA Junior Olympics
Mar. 13-14	Park City, UT	K-90 K-120	Individual	SuperTour Finals
Mar. 20-21	Steamboat Springs, CO	K-90 Jr/Sr NRL #5 K-120 Jr/Sr NRL #6	Sprint	Chevy Truck U.S. Nationals

Mr. Johnson noted that the minimum prize purse for the SuperTour events would be (by place):

1st - \$550
2nd - \$200
3rd - \$100
4th - \$50
5th - \$25

Mr. Bodensteiner explained that an athlete would be able to drop 6 events from his overall score for the purposes of the overall title.

2. North American Junior Championships Rotation

Mr. Stone asked the Subcommittee to evaluate whether they would like to stay with the fixed rotation for the championship, or if they would like to maintain flexibility in finding a site that would be more of a function of overall calendar planning.

After much discussion, it was **decided** that the normal rotation would stay in place.

Mr. Gilbertson suggested that the Subcommittee speak about the dates for the competition.

Mr. Stone stated that there is some confusion over the dates for the event, and Mr. Johnson confirmed that according to the rules, the event is to take place during the second week of January. After lengthy discussion, however, it was **decided** that a recommendation to the Committee would be made to allow for flexibility with the dates for the competition, which would happen during the second weekend of January or later.

3. Identify National Ranking List Competitions

The National Ranking List competitions were already identified through the calendar planning.

4. Develop 2005 and 2006 Calendars

It was **decided** that the 2004 calendar would be the basis of planning for 2005 and 2006.

5. Review Junior World Championship Selection Methods – Ski Jumping

The selection criteria for the 2004 Junior World Championships was presented by Matt Terwillegar, and the final version will be made available on the USSA website and in the USSA Competition Guide.

6. Review World/Continental Cup Selection Methods – Ski Jumping

The selection criteria for the 2004 World Cup and Continental Cup was presented by Mr. Terwillegar, and the final version will be made available on the USSA website and in the USSA Competition Guide.

7. Review Junior World Championship Selection Methods – Nordic Combined

The selection criteria for the 2004 Junior World Championships was presented by Mr. Elden, and the final version will be made available on the USSA website and in the USSA Competition Guide.

8. Review World Cup B Selection Methods – Nordic Combined

The selection criteria for the 2004 World Cup B was presented by Mr. Elden, and the final version will be made available on the USSA website and in the USSA Competition Guide.

Mr. Gilbertson stated that he didn't understand the concept of the pipeline as it relates to World Cup B, and how an athlete can advance up the competition ladder. He stated that, as far as he could tell, there is no possibility to qualify athletes for the World Cup B.

Mr. Bodensteiner stated that this criterion had already been published before the beginning of last season. Athletes who performed in the World Cup B last year are now qualified to begin the World Cup B this season. Additionally, he stated, that an athlete's path into World Cup B now is to qualify for the Junior World Championships through the competitions in Lake Placid, and then perform to the standard outlined in the criteria. He stated that if a kid is successful at the Junior Worlds, and a quota spot is available, that athlete will advance to the World Cup B.

9. Ski Jumping Education Report

Mr. Terwillegar reported on the clinic held in Park City last June. He stated that, unfortunately, there is nothing scheduled for this season due to conflicting schedules. He stated that, given the current resources, the jumping staff is not well enough equipped to take on the task of developing educational materials. He stated his hope that, as the program builds out, the coaching staff will have time to focus on ski jumping specific material.

He then explained the structure of the new education department who will design generic coaches education material that will be available and applicable to all the sports at the introductory stage. He stated that once those materials are completed then the plan is to develop jumping specific materials.

May 17, 2003

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Officials' Subcommittee

Mr. Johnson, Chair of the Ski Jumping/Nordic Combined Committee, called the meeting to order.

1. Updates to the USSA Rulebook

Mr. Tokle stated that the Officials' Subcommittee recommended a rule change to make a mandatory retirement age of 65 for a National TD or Judge. He stated that this is five years older than the FIS maximum age.

Mr. Bodensteiner asked what the actual effects of this rule would be, and Mr. Tokle responded that only Galen Sayward would be disqualified by this rule. He then suggested that 70 years might be a better limit.

Danny Warner stated that this isn't really an age issue, but rather an ability issue.

Bob Averill agreed, stating that judges need to be able to see, which isn't necessarily a function of age.

Mr. Johnson suggested that there isn't a need for an age limit, and that the group making the officials assignments can simply handle performance issues.

Mr. Togle stated that, with the longer retention of older officials, it is harder to make room to bring up new judges.

Mr. Heckert expressed his agreement that this is best handled by the experts making the assignments, and the proposal was **withdrawn**.

2. Recommendations from the Ski Jump Engineering Working Group

Dr. PT Bland reported on the plans in Silverton, CO to construct a 70m jump, to tie in to high school skiing there. He also reported that Norge Ski Club would reconstruct their hill as a K-70.

Mr. Bodensteiner asked whether there are any issues with the hill in Eau Claire not being homologated, yet on the calendar as a site for the SuperTour.

Dr. Bland confirmed that the hill in Eau Claire is not homologated because it is not wide enough, but in his opinion, it is a safe hill for use during the SuperTour.

Mr. Togle stated that at the last meeting of the Committee, a motion to homologate small hills was tabled, and he suggested that the motion now be withdrawn. It was agreed that the motion would be **withdrawn**.

3. TD and Judges Assignments 2004

Mr. Togle confirmed the following TD and Judge nominations:

North American Jr. Championships

- TD from Canada
- Assistant TD Bob Averill
- Judge A from Canada
- 4 other judges assigned from RMD (must be nationally certified)

This schedule of officials (TD from Canada, Assistant TD from the host region, Judge A from Canada and 4 additional nationally certified Judges from the host region) was **accepted** as the standard for future North American Junior Championships).

National Championship

- TD Alan Johnson
- Assistant TD Howard Jarrett
- One judge assigned from each division, with two from RMD

Junior Olympics

- TD Rich Francis
- Assistant TD Matt Laue
- Judges Bob Averill, Ted Shivers, a Central Judge and an IMD Judge

4. National Ranking List Competitions

Mr. Stone presented the National Calendar with the proposed NRL competitions. He stated his concern that there is a lot of travel time, expense, and time out of school associated with the calendar proposal.

Mr. Terwillegar noted that the number of NRL events was limited last year to three weekends in the winter and three in the summer, in an effort to address those concerns. He stated that the number of NRL competitions is the same in this proposal.

Subsequently, Mr. Stone suggested that the SuperTour Finals Mar. 13-14 be pulled off the calendar to reduce the amount of time and expense.

Mr. Warner stated that the prize money at the events is nice, but that an athlete might spend \$2,500 to make \$5,000 during the season.

Mr. Johnson noted that this would make an athlete \$5,000 richer than he was last year, since the athletes were spending money already last year to attend many of the same competitions.

Mr. Bodensteiner suggested that, since the Finals are not tied to any ranking lists or team selection procedures, that it isn't mandatory for all athletes to go. He stated that, just because a top-level competition is being staged, it doesn't mean that every club has to travel to it. He stated that it is simply another competition opportunity for the older athletes and for others who want to take advantage of it, including kids from within the region. He stated his desire to protect the competition as another opportunity for the athletes to compete and to be rewarded.

Mr. Stone made a motion to accept the calendar as drafted, and was seconded by Mr. Ylianttila.

Motion carries.

5. Confirmation of Revised Operating Procedures

Mr. Johnson presented that revised Committee operating procedures, drafted for the Board's consideration.

Mr. Togle made a motion to accept the revised procedures, and was seconded by Mr. Heckert.

In discussion, it was noted that Mr. Bodensteiner would replace Linda Johnson as a member of the Calendar Subcommittee. Additionally, it was reported that Danny Warner on the Officials' Subcommittee would replace Corky Colby, Korey Arnesen replaced Leroy Martinson; Terry Campbell and Jim Mylander were eliminated. In addition, John Farmer on the Central Committee replaced Jim Carter; Alexei Sotskov is now a member of the Eastern Committee, and Mr. Lunde is no longer a member of the Central Committee. Mr. Averill is added to the RMD Committee.

Mr. Averill then asked if there is any merit to establish more division within the Committee to specifically address Nordic combined questions.

Mr. Elden echoed this comment, stating that almost all of the discussions of the Committee are specific to ski jumping.

Mr. Warner stated that Joe Lamb is currently serving as the Chairman of the Nordic Combined Working Group, which lies within the Athlete Development Subcommittee. He stated that if Mr. Lamb is not going to be attending these meetings, that the Committee should replace him with another chairman so issues are brought forward to the Committee members.

Mr. Gilbertson stated that the responsibility to bring Nordic combined questions to the table falls on Mr. Elden's shoulders, and should not be addressed by dividing the Committee.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Committee is integrated specifically so that the activities of the sports are coordinated as much as possible.

Motion carries.

6. Nomination of Executive Committee - 2004

Mr. Johnson proposed the following Executive Committee members; Alan Johnson as Chairman, Larry Stone, Matt Laue and Kari Ylianttila.

A motion to accept the proposed members of the Executive Committee was made by Mr. Heckert and seconded by Mr. Ylianttila.

Motion carries.

7. Nomination of Judicial Committee - 2004

Mr. Johnson proposed that the Judicial Committee be comprised of the Executive Committee without Mr. Ylianttila, and including two alternates, Mr. Heckert and Mr. Averill.

A motion to accept the proposal was made by Mr. Heckert and seconded by Mr. Ylianttila.

Motion carries.

8. New Business

Mr. Warner suggested that the Calendar Planning Subcommittee be consolidated as a Working Group of the Athlete Development Subcommittee.

Mr. Togle made a motion to recognize Mr. Bodensteiner as the Chair of the Calendar Planning Working Group, and that Mr. Bodensteiner would name his members. Mr. Stone seconded this.

Motion carries.

Jarrett Moe proposed a tightening up of the Women's Working Group, whose members would include George Van, Barbara Jerome, Peter Jerome (2-year terms), Mr. Gilbertson, Scott Smith, Casey Colby and Mr. Stone (3-year terms). He suggested that the working group would also report at the next Committee meeting.

This proposal was **accepted** by the members of the Committee.

Mr. Warner stated that he is no longer able to serve as the Chairman for the Jr. Development Working Group, since he can no longer make the annual meeting during the Junior Olympics.

Mr. Stone proposed that the Divisional Development and the Junior Development Working Groups be consolidated, and chaired by Jon Denney.

This proposal was **accepted** by the members of the Committee.

Mr. Stone read a proposal that would re-affirm the masters class as a part of the National Championship.

Mr. Bodensteiner stated that a master's class at the National Championship was never affirmed, and does not appear in the rules. He stated that the National Championship is an open meet with no age classes. He stated that the master skiers currently have their own event.

Mr. Ylianttila made a motion to reaffirm the status of the Master's championship as its own, separate competition, and was seconded by Mr. Stone.

Motion carries.

The spring meeting of the Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined Committee was adjourned at 10:18am on a motion made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Tokle.