

CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE MINUTES USSA CONGRESS 2005 - PARK CITY, UT

Cross Country Committee, Friday, May 13, 8:00am – 9:30am

Chair: Lee Todd

1. Chairman's Introduction

Lee Todd welcomed the members of the Committee and the many guests to the last meeting for which he would serve as chairman, his final term expiring at the conclusion of the meeting. He stated that during his term, he had witnessed a lot of good change, and the committee had really pulled together with the staff as a team, but many challenges still lay ahead.

With that, he gave the assignment of recording the minutes to Luke Bodensteiner, and opened the annual meeting.

2. Roll Call

The following Committee members were recognized as being present:

John Aalberg (Term limit: Spring '05)
Luke Bodensteiner (Term limit: by employment)
Ja Dorris (Term limit: Spring '07) – substituting for Joey Caterinichio
Pat Cote (Term limit: Spring '07)
Jon Engen (Term limit: Spring '06)
Andrew Gerlach (Term limit: Spring '07)
Gary Giberson (Term limit: Spring '07)
Peter Vordenberg (Term limit: by employment)
Rick Kapala (Term limit: Spring '06)
Nina Kemppe (Term limit: Spring '07)
Chris Klein (Term limit: Spring '07)
Bill Sterling (Term limit: Spring '07)
Kevin Sweeney (Term limit: Spring '07)
Lee Todd (Term limit: Spring '05)
Dennis Kruse (Term limit: Spring '05)

With all of the Committee members present, Mr. Todd declared a quorum.

3. Additions to the Agenda

Luke Bodensteiner noted that a discussion about the 2006 National Coaches' Conference had been added to the coaches' subcommittee agenda, and that a discussion regarding the handling of foreign winners at the U.S. Cross Country Championships was requested as an addition to the agenda according to the deadline, and would be discussed.

4. Approval of Minutes, Congress '04

The minutes of the 2004 Congress were distributed one month prior to the meeting, and on a motion from Lee Todd and a second from Kevin Sweeney, the minutes were **approved**.

5. Confirmation of Central Representative 2005-2008

Dennis Kruse was **confirmed** as the Central Region's representative to the Cross Country Committee for another term. It was also noted that, since Yuriy Gusev has taken over the position of CXC Director, he will serve as the regional coordinator, and will thus be the alternate for Mr. Kruse.

6. Selection of Executive Committee – 2005/2006

Lee Todd stated that, since his term is expiring along with the term of the chairman of the officials' subcommittee, he will **appoint** the Executive Committee based on position rather than name; the Chairman, along with the chairmen of the Coaches' and Officials' Subcommittees, an athlete representative to be named by the athletes, and the Nordic Director will serve as the Executive Committee.

Mr. Todd also stated that it would be the task of the new Chairman to appoint a Judicial Committee, which will be formed of the Executive Committee without the Nordic Director, and up to three alternate members.

7. Program Report + NDS Presentation

Luke Bodensteiner and Pete Vordenberg gave a report about the program, and the new plans for the National Development System. Mr. Bodensteiner gave an overview of the team and team strategy. He stated that the team would only include five members this year. He stated that it was important to remember that the team selected now was the team, which was prepared in a comprehensive way through the preparation phase, and that more athletes were brought into the program through World Cup, Continental Cup and Olympic teams. He noted that 8-10 women and 8-10 men would already be added to the World Cup team in December. He also stated that, when selecting this team, results and the potential for impact results at this winter's Olympics were the barometer, and that women and men were not differentiated when selecting the team, which is to say that the coaching staff does not look at quotas for team size or for numbers of men or women when selecting the team. Instead, they look to provide as many of the necessary resources as possible for the athletes who have shown the greatest potential for top results in the next Olympics.

He then gave a brief overview of the development of the budget for the season, and stated that, while there were initial cuts in the planning phase, the total budget for the year was again up slightly from the year before. He did note, however, that as skiers have come through the development program and developed into top World Cup competitors, that the funding levels at the top-end have grown more intense in an effort to capitalize on the World Cup talent in the team now. This has meant a steady erosion of the funds that can be committed to development, resulting in the de-emphasis of what has clearly been a successful development program. He stated that, since it is no longer currently possible to support financially a residence-based development program, they are switching tactics, and instituting a more broad-based development system, called the NDS. Mr. Bodensteiner and Mr. Vordenberg then summarized the NDS as follows:

Purpose:

- To initiate a development system, which impacts our top-tier development-level athletes.
- To use the system to create partnerships with our top development clubs, which will enhance and expand their programs while simultaneously providing opportunities for athletes from other programs to plug into the development-level projects they are managing in conjunction with our current U.S. Ski Team program.
- To leverage those partnerships into a broad and common training philosophy, and to drive information about that philosophy into regional/local clubs.

Method:

- USSA will use top-level coaches, who are operating top-level clubs, which include top-level athletes, and who have demonstrated a clear willingness to operate within the framework of the U.S. Ski Team training and competition philosophy, and who have a clear track record of plugging effectively into U.S. Ski Team projects as support personnel to increase the capacity of the U.S. Ski Team to manage additional athletes in key projects.
- Top-level athletes, as identified by the U.S. Ski Team Development Coach, will be invited to participate in key U.S. Ski team projects. These (existing) projects are effective for developing World Cup and Continental Cup competitors, and with additional support staff, can accommodate this dual purpose.

Outcomes:

- The U.S. Ski Team, within the framework of its existing projects and also including SuperTour and Europa Cup competitions, will provide the additional staff to accommodate a larger volume of development-level athletes than it has in its model of the past seasons. This group of athletes will include members of the U.S. Ski Team from the previous season (women and men), members of the development team from the past season, and will accommodate additional athletes, who have been identified as top talents, but who were not accommodated within the team due to capacity restrictions.
- The NDS, at this initial level, will help to enhance club programs where top athletes are training, and/or help them to expand their programs by relieving their team budgets of certain project-related expenses.
- This cross-club approach will necessitate a common training/competition philosophy among the clubs, which choose to be a part of the NDS.
- This common philosophy will be driven into local and regional clubs by coaches who are actively engaged in this tier of the NDS through coaches' education. This step is also in the direct interest of the development clubs, which will aim to develop local/regional skiers who can grow into their own elite-level programs.

Why not a residence program?

- Our long-term goal is to re-initiate the residence program for development-level athletes, as this is a model with which we have seen success in the past. However, we do not currently have the capacity to fund athletes in a residence program. With the new occurrence of "development clubs", or clubs that are focused on high-level development and which have the funding capabilities to pay athlete expenses at key projects, top athletes will clearly gravitate toward those clubs, as they are doing now. Therefore, we believe our best strategy at this moment is to support and enhance those clubs as a first step, as this will forge a system through which our top athletes can attend various development projects and operate under a consistent training and competition direction.

Buildout in the future:

- The development club level described here is just one level of the NDS, and is an appropriate and effective first step given our current resources, both within the association and within the ski community. Additional levels are necessary to create what we envision as a complete NDS, which will completely unlock the potential of cross country development. These additional levels are:
 - Residence program – a group of top-level development athletes training and competing day-to-day with the World Cup skiers and coaches, and with a dedicated Continental Cup coach and technician.
 - Regional – project-based opportunities for junior and college skiers, organized coaches education, development of athletes into development clubs.

Officials' Subcommittee, Friday, May 13, 9:45am – 6:00pm
Chair: John Aalberg

Attendees:

John Aalberg
Sarah Duffany
Lori Gates
Garry Gibertson
Bob Gross
Matt Laue
Scott Wilson
Dan Warner
Ernie Page
Jim Rodrigues
Lee Todd

DETAILS:

1. Review of Season/Regional Officiating Issues and TD Comments

- Cold weather issues
 - Committee supports being conservative regarding racing in cold temperatures, and is made aware that the FIS Medical Committee is discussing raising the minimum temperature from –20 C to –17 C.
- Obstruction and Penalty in Sprint
 - TDs are encouraged to work with organizers to lay out Sprint courses that avoid potential interference, by way of using straighter courses with room for overtaking.
- Timing and Results issues in Sprint
 - Committee discussed miscellaneous situations in Sprint that cause changes to the result list, such as penalties in the form of placing a skier last in the heat (in case of interference), placing a skier in last place among qualifiers (not showing up to his heat), or placing skier as a DSQ (in case of an intentional interference or other serious rule infraction).
- Jury work/placement during Sprint events
 - Committee is recommending that no outside officials be used as “supplementary” jury members during the event. All determinations of infractions, etc. should be handled by the jury only. The TD should be situated in the stadium during the race (start and finish), while other jury members should be placed where deemed appropriate.
- Jury/TD compensations
 - Committee is referring to minutes from last year.
- Overtaking – specification
 - An explanation and definition of proper procedure for overtaking was included in the March issue of the Officials' Newsletter.
- Written reprimand
 - Should be used with caution, and only in serious cases. A second written warning, regardless of type of infraction, automatically causes a DSQ.
- FIS points, penalty calculation
 - For calculation of race penalty for FIS races, only the current FIS points list is to be used. It is not permissible to use the prior or last season's version of the FIS points list.
 - **MOTION 1 (by Wilson, seconded by Giberson): Only athletes with active FIS license will be included in the FIS points calculations in a FIS competition, including skiers in the top-5 spots. Results sent to FIS will omit any skiers who are not listed on the current FIS points list.**
 - **Motion passes with one NO vote (Aalberg).**
This means that skiers who have not paid for a USSA and FIS license before October 15 will not gain FIS points during the first period of the race season (pre-Christmas). USSA and Committee members should actively communicate this.

- **MOTION 2 (by Laue, seconded by Giberson): Motion 1 also carries over to USSA points calculation, meaning the skiers who are not listed as a paid USSA member prior to the draw for the race, will not gain USSA points or be included in the race penalty calculation for the particular race.**
- **Motion passes with one NO vote (Aalberg).**

2. Review of TD Certification Status and Database

- The level 3 TD list is edited as per attachment (six removed as not being current)
- The TD Pipeline is edited as per attachment
- One new level 2 TD this year: Ron Howell
- Four new level 3 TD candidates:
 - John Howard
 - Bill Rodgers
 - Chuck Broomhall
 - Gregg Lawly

3. Discussion of Reporting Process for Results and Points (FIS and USSA)

- The correct Results procedures and process for USSA and FIS races (as written by Ernie Page, Summit Timing) should be published on the USSA Web site. It is required that organizers on the National Schedule make sure that their timing provider acknowledges this process prior to being contracted for the competition.
- The committee discussed the wish to calculate USSA points for Junior classes in senior sprint races. It was determined that this would not be possible with the current calculation system.

4. Discussion of Rules and Event Issues Regarding New Race Formats

- Start setup for pursuit and mass-start competitions
 - Only seven or nine start tracks are currently used at World Cup events (using arrow system)
- Exchange area setup for pursuit competitions
 - It is permissible to use a common exchange box for a group of skiers
- Track setting in classical sprints
 - It is common practice on World Cup events to only use two tracks out on the course (for a 4-person heat), however the start and finish must have four tracks (in case of a 4-person heat)
- Course requirements for (classical) sprints
 - It is important the classical technique sprint courses include uphill parts, such that races with double-poling only are avoided

5. Review of Proposals or Issues from the CCC Meeting

- None that are not discussed elsewhere

6. Discuss Items and Challenges for Future Work in Area of Officiating and Event Organization

- Marathon expertise
 - A Marathon (Popular race) seminar will be held in the Twin Cities November 18-19, 2005. This may be combined with the FIS and USSA National TD update seminar.

7. Review of US Certified Sites and Current Work (Homologation Working Group)

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) |
| - Rumford | - FIS and USSA #7,8,9 | (5 km, 5km, 7.5 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) |
| - Lake Placid | - FIS expired | |

New:

- Michigan Tech - FIS and USSA #10,11,12,13 (sprints – both CL and FR, 5km, 7.5 k)
- McCall (Ponderosa) - re-certification
- Marquette - (starting this summer)

8. Discussion of New FIS ICR Proposals (Rules Working Group)

- Future Junior World Championship Relay: 3.3 km for Women, 5 km for Men
- Discussion of appropriate action when false start (351.4.1) – will be clarified by FIS
- Second false start in Sprint (360.3.6) – same rule as in Track & Field
- Penalty in Sprint heats (360.3.7 and 360.3.10) – discussed above
- Defined start procedure/description (376.7.2) – will be clarified by FIS
- Written reprimand – action (392.7) – used as per rule book, no change
- Advertising and Commercial Marking (381.7) – as per rule book, no DSW allowed
- Factors for points calculation (800, 1200, 1400) – same as last year
- FIS code requirement – all race participants must have FIS license
- Penalty calculation: Use 160 points if no points or more than 160 points
- Sprint event format changes (longer qualification, 30 to advance) – rules will be updated/clarified by FIS

9. Update of USSA Competition Rules (Rules Working Group)

- Seeding at the National Championships
MOTION # 3 (by Gross, seconded by Todd) - passed
Proposal for Seeding Rules US Nationals
- 50.2

The following system will be used: (you could get rid of this clause)

Competitors will be placed in draw groups of 20, seeded into the groups according to USSA NRL points. Competitors who do not have valid USSA NRL points, but who do have valid FIS points, will be seeded into the groups using their FIS points in place of USSA NRL points. Competitors with neither USSA NRL points nor FIS points will be placed in a single group and randomized within that group.

Groups will be lettered A through Z, with the competitors with the best points in group A, the competitors with the next-best points in group B, and so on, and the last group containing the competitors with neither USSA NRL nor FIS points.

The Competition Jury will decide the start order of the groups. In special circumstances, the Competition Jury may also create a special "snow seed" of 10 to 20 competitors. This group will be the first group to start.

The Competition Jury may take other measures, as needed, to ensure that the draw ensures a fair competition.

10. Reports on Past Year's Clinics and Participation (Education Working Group)

- 2004 National Seminar Lake Placid
 - 2004 Regional Seminar Soldier Hollow
 - 2004 Regional Seminar Mid-West
 - 2004 Regional Seminar NENSA (list of participants to be submitted by NENSA)
- All participants are captured in the Officials' Database of seminars.

11. Upcoming Clinics – Materials, Process and Topics (Education Working Group)

- FIS Marathon/TD update clinic November 18-19, Twin Cities
 - National USSA TD seminar included

12. Discuss TD Assignment Process

- No change to current process.

13. Appointments of TDs for National Calendar

Statement: TD's in USSA or FIS races cannot actively be coaching a team during the event. It is permissible that the third Jury member is a coach if no other qualified officials are available. This also is the case for FIS/U (College FIS) races.

- 2005/2006 TD appointment presented by Scott Wilson

APPENDIX I – TD PIPELINE

USSA TD's Pipeline

Level 1:

USSA Technical Delegate in training

Criteria:

1. Sign up as TD candidate in USSA TD database.
2. Participate in regional or national TD clinics.
3. Officiate as member of Jury in level 2 or 3 events.
4. Not yet officiated as TD or assistant TD in level 2 or 3 races.

Level 2:

Regional USSA Technical Delegate (USSA goal: Total of 40)

Criteria:

1. Officiate satisfactorily as TD at level 2 events or assistant TD at level 3 events (see "Venue and Event Organizer's Pipeline").
2. Organize or attend regional or national officials' or TD seminar every four years.
3. Be in good physical condition and be able to ski any competition course.
4. Maintain a current USSA official's license, and be tracked in the national USSA officials' database.
5. Demonstrate excellence as a lead official in two or more officiating areas at level 2 or 3 events, or accumulate experience as coach or athlete at level 3 or 4 events (see "Venue and Event Organizer's Pipeline"), **and** indicate interest in TD officiating. Must be recommended for TD candidacy by region/division/district cross country or officials committee.

Level 3:

National USSA Technical Delegate (USSA goal: Total of 15-20)

Criteria:

1. Officiate satisfactorily as TD at level 3 events (see "Venue and Event Organizer's Pipeline") at least once every four years.
2. Actively participate yearly in TD and Officials' work at a regional level.
3. Organize or present at regional officials/TD seminar once every two years.
4. Attend National USSA TD or FIS seminar every four years and pass rules examination.
5. Be in good physical condition and be able to ski any competition course.
6. Maintain a current USSA official's license, be tracked in the national USSA officials' database and receive national education material.
7. Must be nominated by Level 4 Technical Delegate or by regional officials' coordinator.

Level 4:

International FIS Technical Delegate (USSA goal: Total of 2-5)

Criteria:

1. Officiate as TD or assistant TD at non-domestic FIS events or domestic World Cup events.
2. Present at or organize national USSA Officials' or TD seminars regularly.
3. Assist with preparation of USSA TD and Officials educational material.
4. Attend international FIS meetings, FIS homologation, or FIS TD seminars at least every four years.
5. Be instrumental in disseminating FIS rules and interpretations to national USSA TD's and Officials.
6. Be in good physical condition and be able to ski any competition course.
7. Oversee evaluation and nomination of National (level 3) USSA Technical Delegates.

APPENDIX II - 2005 TD DATABASE

TD Level	First Name	Last Name
TD 4	John	Aalberg
TD 4	Lee	Todd
TD 3	Bob	Gross
TD 3	Bruce	Cranmer
TD 3	Cami	Cardinelli
TD 3	Gary	Larson
TD 3	Gary	Giberson
TD 3	Hugh	Cooke
TD 3	Jack	Jeffery
TD 3	Jim	Rodriguez
TD 3	John	Estle
TD 3	John	Filander
TD 3	John	Hatcher
TD 3	Knut	Nystad
TD 3	Lori	Gates
TD 3	Mark	Boback
TD 3	Mary	Pelto
TD 3	Matt	Laue
TD 3	Max	Cobb
TD 3	Mike	Miller
TD 3	Scott	Wilson
TD 2	Sten	Fjeldheim
TD 2	Sally	Jones
TD 2	Ted	Gardner
TD 2	Alan	Serrano
TD 2	Bill	Rogers
TD 2	Bob	Aldrich
TD 2	Brian	Dale
TD 2	Bucky	Broomhall
TD 2	Chuck	Broomhall
TD 2	Chuck	Kohut
TD 2	Cliff	Montagne
TD 2	Dave	Newton
TD 2	David A	Johnson
TD 2	David	Porter
TD 2	Don	Christman
TD 2	Earl	Jette
TD 2	Fred	Griffin
TD 2	Galen	Sayward
TD 2	Gretchen	Daiber
TD 2	James	Townsend
TD 2	Jeff	Banks
TD 2	Jefferson	Goethals
TD 2	Jerry	Gilbert
TD 2	Jim	Tervo
TD 2	John	Weston
TD 2	John	Howard
TD 2	Larry	Myers

TD 2	Lori	Eggstaff-Horn
TD 2	Michael	Heath
TD 2	Mike	Marciniak
TD 2	Pat	Cote
TD 2	Pete	Johansen
TD 2	Putnam	Blodgett
TD 2	Raulf	LaMarche
TD 2	Robert	Meyers
TD 2	Scott	Havlick
TD 2	Scott	Yule
TD 2	Sharon	Macsurk
TD 2	Terry	Tansey
TD 2	Tom	Frost
TD 2	Ron	Howard

Coaches' Subcommittee, Friday, May 13, 9:45am – 6:00pm
Chair: Rick Kapala

1. Review Junior Scandinavian Cup Selection Methods

The draft selection criteria were reviewed. It was **decided** that the ranking list for the Junior Scandinavian Cup competitors would only rank skiers eligible for this competition.

The criteria were **approved**, and will be posted to www.ussa.org.

2. Review Junior World Championship Selection Methods

The draft selection criteria were reviewed. After extensive discussion regarding specification of an exact team size, and regarding the logistical challenges of naming the team, the criteria were **approved** as presented, and will be posted to www.ussa.org.

3. Review U23 Selection Methods

The draft selection criteria were reviewed, and **approved**, and will be posted to www.ussa.org.

4. Review World Cup Selection Methods

Luke Bodensteiner presented the selection criteria, noting that the criteria had already been published. However, since the criteria were published, USSA has been able to secure additional quota spots for the World Cup competitions December 10-18, and therefore a clause pertaining to the qualification of this additional group must be added. After reviewing the additional clause, the criteria were **approved**, and will be posted to www.ussa.org.

5. Review Changes to Junior Olympic rule 70.1.4 (Collegiate Qualification)

The following change was **approved**:

The top-5 U.S. juniors on the final NCAA East, NCAA West, or NCAA Central ranking lists are automatically qualified to enter JOC, but are not counted against their Division's or District's quota specified in rule 074.

6. Confirmation of the 2008 Junior Olympic Bid

Due to problems with the proposed courses, stadium layouts, and a lack of named key officials, the Coaches' Subcommittee **decided** not to approve the JO 2008 bid as recommended by the Junior Working Group. Ja Dorris was assigned as a local liaison to contact the bid chairman to express the deficiencies as seen by the Subcommittee, and to instruct him to address those deficiencies by October 1, after which time the bid process may be re-opened if the items have not been sufficiently addressed.

7. Review of National Calendar

The national calendar was presented and reviewed.

It was **decided** that, on each SuperTour weekend, where a distance and a sprint race are scheduled, that the sprint will take place on the first day, and the distance race on the second day.

It was **noted** that the SuperTour sprint at Telemark may be moved to Duluth, in which case the technique will be changed to F. This decision may be made later in the summer or fall.

It was **noted** that the Gold Rush would not host the U.S. Marathon Championships this year. A proposal from Winter Park, CO to host the championship in March was discussed. Finally, it was **decided** that the marathon championship should take place as part of the Spring Series in Presque Isle, ME, as a 30km for women and 50km for men, and will be held in classic technique.

A B-level SuperTour series was discussed, which would be held in the Midwest in December, when no SuperTour competition is scheduled this year. However, there was insufficient interest in this proposal to pursue it further.

Andrew Gerlach explained the situation regarding publicity of the results achieved by foreign winners of competitions at the U.S. Nationals. He also asked that the USSA Media Department use its best efforts to include a competitor's hometown AND club when writing stories about the championship. This information was conveyed to Paul Robbins.

8. Review need for "Final Results Book" at the Junior Olympics

Based on the experiences of past Junior Olympics, it was **decided** that the final results for the Junior Olympics will be published primarily on the organizer's website, and that 10 copies per team will be printed and delivered to each team captain at the final awards celebration.

9. Review maximum entry fee for SuperTour competitions

The following fee schedule for SuperTour competitions was **approved**:

- 1 race - \$35
- 2 races - \$55
- 3 races - \$75
- 4 races - \$95
- 5 races - \$115

A late fee may not be charged until one week prior to the first competition at each site, and may not exceed \$10 per race.

10. National Coaches' Conference and REG Camps

Peter Vordenberg informed the members that the National Coaches' Conference will be organized this year by Nathan Schultz, and will take place in Lake Placid, NY at the U.S. Olympic Training Center September 23-25. He noted that the seminar will be open to approximately 100 coaches, and will involve all three U.S. Ski Team coaches as presenters.

11. Discuss Selection of Regional Elite Group Camps and USST Coach Participation

Peter Vordenberg gave a brief update regarding the status of the Regional Elite Group camps for the summer, and noted his participation in various camps. He also gave a status report regarding the coaches he hopes to send to the Junior/U23 World Championships.

Cross Country Committee, Saturday, May 24, 9:00am – 2:00pm

Chair: Lee Todd

1. Reports and Proposals from Officials' Subcommittee

John Aalberg presented the proposals from the Officials' Subcommittee:

- Only athletes with active FIS licenses will be included in the FIS points calculations in a FIS competition, including skiers in the top-5 spots. Results sent to FIS will omit any skiers that are not listed on the current FIS points list. Additionally, skiers who are not listed as a paid USSA member prior to the draw for the race will not gain USSA points or be included in the race penalty calculation for the particular race. Mr. Aalberg noted that this means that skiers that have not paid for a USSA and FIS license before October 15 will not gain FIS points during the first period of the race season (pre-Christmas).

After strenuous debate, this proposal was **withdrawn**. Therefore, the system will remain the same as it has been, whereby skiers who have active licenses at the time of the competition will be able to use their current points, and will be used in the penalty calculation and will be included in the scored results.

- Proposal for Seeding Rules US Nationals (Rule 50.2) The following system will be used:

Competitors will be placed in draw groups of 20, seeded into the groups according to USSA NRL points. Competitors who do not have valid USSA NRL points, but who do have valid FIS points, will be seeded into the groups using their FIS points in place of USSA NRL points. Competitors with neither USSA NRL points nor FIS points will be placed in a single group and randomized within that group.

- Groups will be lettered A through Z, with the competitors with the best points in group A, the competitors with the next-best points in group B, and so on, and the last group containing the competitors with neither USSA NRL nor FIS points. The Competition Jury will decide the start order of the groups. In special circumstances, the Competition Jury may also create a special "snow seed" of 10 to 20 competitors. This group will be the first group to start. The Competition Jury may take other measures, as needed, to ensure that the draw ensures a fair competition.

This proposal was **approved**.

John Aalberg then noted that, as a point of clarification, college coaches who serve as TD's for college FIS races cannot also be serving as the Head Coach for their team at the time of the competition.

Finally, he reported that the TD assignments for the 2006 championship events are:

U.S. Cross Country Championships, Soldier Hollow

TD – Matt Laue

TDA – Bob Gross

USSA Junior Olympics

TD – Jim Rodrigues

2. Reports and Proposals from Coaches' Subcommittee

Rick Kapala made the following proposals:

- Selection criteria for Junior Scandinavian Cup, Junior World Championships, U23 Championships and World Cup (nation's group). The criteria were **approved**.
- The top-5 U.S. juniors on the final NCAA East, NCAA West, or NCAA Central ranking lists are automatically qualified to enter JOC, but are not counted against their Division's or District's quota specified in rule 074. **Approved.**
- Mr. Kapala reported that the JO 2008 bid had not been accepted, and would not be forwarded to the Committee. He noted that he had set an October 1 deadline for re-evaluating the proposal before the bid process would be re-opened.
- The minimum penalties for the SuperTour sprint in Minneapolis and for SuperTour Team Sprint competitions (except during the Spring Series) will be dropped to 15.00. **Approved.**
- Mr. Kapala presented the national calendar, and it was **approved**.
- It was noted that USSA would use its efforts to list both hometown and club in its official press releases.
- The proposal to reduce the requirement of printed JO results booklets was **approved**.
- The SuperTour fee structure was **approved**.

3. Review National Championship Entry Fee Structure

Scott Wilson reported to the Committee about comments he had received from competitors, who only wanted to enter one to two races during the U.S. Cross Country Championships, and proposed that a reduced fee be established for skiers wishing to do fewer than four races during the championship.

Kelley Seifert from the USSA Events Department agreed to look into the issue, and make adjustments to the fee schedule if they made sense from an Events Department standpoint.

4. Election of the new Chairman of the Officials' Subcommittee

John Aalberg, who was not seeking to renew his position as chairman of the Officials' Subcommittee because of his commitment to work for the Vancouver Olympic Organizing Committee, was thanked and congratulated for his excellent service. It was noted that the organization of the officials' work, including officials' education, had advanced incredibly under his leadership.

He reported that the members of the Officials' Subcommittee would like to present Bob Gross as their candidate as the next subcommittee chairman.

On a motion by Scott Wilson and seconded by Rick Kapala, Bob Gross was **elected** to serve as the next Officials' Chairman.

5. Seating of the new Cross Country Committee Chairman

Luke Bodensteiner thanked Lee Todd for the eight years they had worked together, and noted that while Mr. Todd was not on the front lines of the sport every day, he was engaged actively and effectively with USSA and FIS leadership, and was a positive influence on the sport during his term.

Mr. Bodensteiner then presented the nominee for Mr. Todd's successor, Jon Engen. By a vote of the board, Mr. Engen was **elected** to serve as the next Cross Country Chairman.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place in May 2006 in Park City. The meeting will last an additional day, so that the coaches' subcommittee can tackle coaching philosophy issues in addition to the normal business with which they will have to deal.

APPENDIX III - CALENDAR DRAFT - 2006

Date	Location	Comments
Nov. 5-6	Fairbanks, AK	SuperTour Opener 5+5/7.5+7.5km Purs., Sprint F
Nov. 12-13	Anchorage, AK	SuperTour 5/10km F, Sprint C
Nov. 25-26	West Yellowstone, MT	SuperTour/ US100 10/10km C, Sprint F
Dec. 10-11	Vernon, CAN	World Cup Pursuit, Sprint F
Dec. 14-18	Canmore, CAN	World Cup Relay, 15/30km C, Team Sp C
Jan. 3-10	Soldier Hollow, UT	U.S. Nationals – SuperTour Day 1: 15/30km F mass Day 3: Sprint F (24 in Finals) Day 5: 10/15km C Day 6: 5/10km F Day 8: 20/30km Pursuit
Jan. 14-15	Madison, WI Grand Prix	SuperTour Team Sprint F, Sprint C (Finals 1-8 and 9-16)
Jan. 21, 22	Mt. Itasca, MN Grand Prix	SuperTour 5/10km F, 10/15km C
Jan. 25, 28, 29	Telemark, WI Grand Prix	SuperTour Sprint C 5/10km C, 10/15km F mass-start
Jan. 30-Feb. 5	Kranj, SLO	World Jr/U23 Championship
Feb. 4-5	Minneapolis Grand Prix	SuperTour Sprint F (Finals 1-8) 30/30km F mass-start
Feb. 11	Aspen, CO	SuperTour 30/30km F mass-start
Feb. 11-12	TBD, ITA	OPA Cup 15/30km F mass-start, Sprint F
Feb. 10-26	Torino, ITA	Olympic Games
Feb. 25	Hayward, WI	American Birkebeiner 52km F mass-start
Mar. 4-5	Europe/Scandinavia	OPA/Scando-Cup
Mar. 8-11	CU	NCAA Championships 5/10km C, 15/20km F Mass-start
Mar. 11-12	Europe/Scandinavia	OPA/Scando-Cup
Mar. 6-11	Houghton, MI	JOs
Mar. 11-12	Reit im Winkl, GER	OPA Cup 5/10km F, Sprint C
Mar. 18-19	SUI/AUT	OPA Cup
Mar. 19-26	Presque Isle, ME	SuperTour/Spring Series Mar. 19: 10/15km C mass- ST Mar. 21: Team Sprint C March 24: Sprint F Mar. 25: 5/10km F - ST Mar. 26: 30/50km C mass-start National Championship/ ST Finals

National Calendar Distribution (not including JOs, Europa Cup, World Cup/Olympics and NCAAs)

7 freestyle distance competitions
5 classic distance competitions
4 freestyle sprint competitions
4 classic sprint competitions
3 pursuit competitions
1 freestyle team sprint
1 classic team sprint
2 freestyle popular marathon race

CALENDAR DRAFT - 2007

Date	Location	Comments
Nov. 4-5	TBD	SuperTour Opener 5+5/7.5+7.5km Pursuit/Sprint F
Nov. 11-12	TBD	SuperTour 5/10km C, 5/10km F
Nov. 24-25	West Yellowstone	SuperTour 10/15km F, Sprint C
Dec. 1	TBD	100m Record Attempt (non-scored)
Dec. 9, 10, 14, 16, 17	TBD WED RACE MOVED TO THURS??	SuperTour 5/10km C, Sprint C, 7.5+7.5/15+15km Pursuit, 10/15km F, Team Sprint F
Dec. 30-31	TBD	SuperTour 10/10km C, Sprint F
Jan. 6-13 Sat.-Sun.	TBD	U.S. Nationals – SuperTour Day 1: Sprint C Day 3: 5/10km C Day 4: 5/10km F Day 6: 15/30km F Day 8: 15/30km Pursuit
Jan. 20, 21	TBD	SuperTour 5/10km C, 10/15km F mass-start
Jan. 24, 27, 28	TBD	SuperTour Sprint F, 5/10km C, 10/15km F mass-start
Feb. 2-3	TBD	SuperTour Sprint F 30/30km F mass-start
Feb. 10-11	TBD	SuperTour Sprint C Team Sprint F
TBD	TBD	World Junior Championships/ U-23 Championships??
TBD	Sapporo, JPN	World Championships
TBD	Europe/Scandinavia	OPA/Scando-Cup
Feb. 24	Hayward, WI	American Birkebeiner 52km F
TBD	Europe/Scandinavia	OPA/Scando-Cup
TBD	Europe/Scandinavia	OPA/Scando Cup
Mar. 8-11	TBD	NCAA Championships 5/10km F, 15/20km C Mass-start
TBD	Europe/Scandinavia	OPA/Scando Cup
Mar. 6-11	Mountain Division	Jos
Mar. TBD	TBD	50/50km F mass-start
Mar. 24-31	TBD	International Spring Series Sprint F 5/10km C 7.5+7.5/15+15km Pursuit 10/15km F Mass-start National Sprint Relay C

APPENDIX IV - USSA 2006 JUNIOR SCANDINAVIAN CUP TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

1. USSA POLICY

This team selection criteria shall be principally objective (or performance-based), coaches' discretion must be limited to no more than twenty-five percent (25%) of total team size, and that available start rights and team spots will not necessarily be filled.

2. TEAM SIZE

A maximum of twelve (12) athletes (six per sex) may represent the United States in the 2006 Junior Scandinavian Cup.

3. START RIGHTS

Up to six (6) male and six (6) female athletes may start for the United States in each event.

4. ELIGIBILITY FOR CONSIDERATION

USSA will consider for selection only those USSA members in good standing with valid U.S. passports, and born in 1988 or later. An athlete shall be ineligible for consideration if he/she is not fit to compete at the time selections are made due to any injury or illness from which he/she is not expected to recover adequately by the time of the Junior Scandinavian Cup.

5. TEAM SELECTION PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA

The USSA Development Coach is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the oversight of the Chief Executive Officer, Vice President of Athletics, and Nordic Director of USSA. In order to ensure that the United States fields a representative team, team size shall consist of six (6) athletes per sex. Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in the men's 10km F, 15km C and Sprint competitions, and women's 5km F, 10km C and Sprint competitions at the 2006 Chevy Truck U.S. National Championships, tentatively scheduled for January 5-8, 2006 (the "selection period"). Discretionary selections, if any, may be based on a variety of factors, including competitions conducted outside of the selection period.

(a) Coaches' Discretion. USSA may select up to three (3) athletes to the team using coaches' discretion. The total number of discretionary selections made by the coaching staff shall be no more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the maximum team size described in paragraph 2 above. If the coaching staff fills any available spot(s) on the team with discretionary selections, then the staff may consider any factors including (but not limited to) the following:

- 1) Outstanding competition results (including results achieved outside of the selection period).
- 2) Recent direction or trend of competition results (i.e., improving, flat, or declining).
- 3) Attitude and commitment of athletes.
- 4) Physical fitness level.
- 5) Illness or injury during the selection period.
- 6) Indicia of medal potential in future Olympic or World Championship competition, which would be materially enhanced by selection to team.
- 7) Other unanticipated failure of objective criteria to select an athlete likely to achieve competition results consistent with USSA program goals for the Junior Scandinavian Cup.

(b) Objective Criteria. Up to six (6) athletes per sex shall be selected to the team based solely upon their competition results during the selection period. Team selections up to the maximum team size shall be granted to athletes who have achieved the best cumulative total results during the selection period based on a competitor's best two races (scoring only competitors born in 1988 or later), based on the World Cup scoring system outlined in the

USSA Competition Guide, using their best two of three competitions. Ties will be broken according to the following:

- Highest single finish during the selection period
- Second highest single finish during the selection period
- Third highest single finish during the selection period
- Fourth highest single finish during the selection period
- Lowest USSA Points in an event

Athletes who qualify for this trip will be self-funded.

APPENDIX V – USSA 2006 CROSS COUNTRY WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

1. USSA POLICY

USSA policy mandates that World Championship and Olympic team selection criteria shall be principally objective (or performance-based), that coaches' discretion must be limited to no more than twenty-five percent (25%) of total team size, and available start rights and team spots will not necessarily be filled.

2. TEAM SIZE

The team selected by USSA may consist of any number of athletes up to the quota set by the International Ski Federation (FIS).

3. START RIGHTS

Up to four (4) male and four (4) female athletes may start for the United States in each event.

4. ELIGIBILITY FOR CONSIDERATION

USSA will consider for selection only those USSA members in good standing with valid U.S. passports, who meet FIS minimum eligibility standards. An athlete shall be ineligible for consideration if he/she is not fit to compete at the time selections are made due to any injury or illness from which he/she is not expected to recover adequately by the time of the Junior World Championships.

5. TEAM SELECTION PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA

The USSA Development Coach is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the oversight of the Chief Executive Officer, Vice President of Athletics, and Nordic Director of USSA. In order to ensure that the United States fields a representative team, minimum team size shall consist of five (5) athletes per sex. Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in SuperTour competitions held between November 1, 2005 and November 27, 2005, and in the men's 15km C, 10km F and Sprint (including Junior Finals, if applicable) competitions and women's 10km C, 5km F and Sprint (including Junior Finals, if applicable) competitions at the 2006 U.S. Cross Country Championships, tentatively scheduled for January 5-8, 2006 (the "selection period"). Discretionary selections, if any, may be based on a variety of factors, including competitions conducted outside of the selection period.

(a) Coaches' Discretion. USSA may select athletes to the team using coaches' discretion. The total number of discretionary selections made by the coaching staff shall be no more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the team size described in paragraph 2 above. If the coaching staff fills any available spot(s) on the team with discretionary selections, then the staff may consider any factors including (but not limited to) the following:

- 1) Outstanding competition results (including results achieved outside of the selection period).
- 2) Recent direction or trend of competition results (i.e., improving, flat, or declining).
- 3) Attitude and commitment of athletes.
- 4) Physical fitness level.
- 5) Illness or injury during the selection period.
- 6) Indicia of medal potential in future Olympic or World Championship competition, which would be materially enhanced by selection to team.
- 7) Other unanticipated failure of objective criteria to select an athlete likely to achieve competition results consistent with USSA program goals for the Junior World Championships.

(b) Objective Criteria.

- 1) Up to two (2) athletes per gender shall be selected to the team based solely upon their SuperTour competition results between November 1, 2005 and November 27, 2005. Male athletes achieving a FIS point result under 70 FIS points in a SuperTour distance race, or under 80 FIS points in a SuperTour sprint race, and female athletes achieving a FIS point result under 75 FIS points in a SuperTour distance race, or under 90 FIS points in a SuperTour sprint race between November 1, 2005 and November 27, 2005 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:
 - Best FIS points in a SuperTour competition
(held between November 1, 2005- November 27, 2005)
 - Second best FIS points in a SuperTour competition
(held between November 1, 2005- November 27, 2005)
 - Third best FIS points in a SuperTour competition
(held between November 1, 2005- November 27, 2005)
 - Fourth best FIS points in a SuperTour competition
(held between November 1, 2005- November 27, 2005)
- 2) USSA shall ensure that it fields a representative team by selecting as many additional athletes as may be necessary to bring the total team size up to, but not limited to, five (5) athletes per gender based on the best cumulative total results of an athlete's best two U.S. Cross Country Championship races during the selection period, as indicated above, using the World Cup scoring system outlined in the USSA Competition Guide. The tie-breaking procedure is also outlined in the USSA Competition Guide.

Athletes who qualify for this trip will be self-funded.

6. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SELECTIONS

Selections to the 2006 Junior World Championship team shall be announced on January 8, 2006 (tentative) at the offices of USSA in Park City, UT, and shall be published immediately upon announcement.

APPENDIX VI –USSA 2006 U23 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CROSS COUNTRY TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

1. **USSA POLICY**

USSA policy mandates that World Championship team selection criteria shall be principally objective (or performance-based), that coaches' discretion must be limited to no more than twenty-five percent (25%) of total team selected, and that available start rights and team spots will not necessarily be filled.

2. **TEAM SIZE**

The team selected by USSA may consist of any number of athletes up to the quota set by the International Ski Federation (FIS).

3. **START RIGHTS**

Up to four (4) athletes may start for the United States in each event.

4. **ELIGIBILITY FOR CONSIDERATION**

USSA will consider for selection only those USSA members in good standing with valid U.S. passports and a valid FIS license who have met FIS minimum eligibility standards (currently, athletes born in 1983 or later). An athlete shall be ineligible for consideration for team selection or start rights if he/she is not fit to compete at the time selections are made due to any injury or illness from which he/she is not expected to recover adequately by the time of the 2006 U23 Championships.

5. **TEAM SELECTION PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA**

The USSA Development Coach is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the approval of the Chief Executive Officer, Vice President of Athletics, and Nordic Director of USSA. Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in National Championship competitions held between January 3, 2006 and January 10, 2006 (tentative), and World Cup competitions held between December 9, 2005 and December 19, 2005 (the "objective selection period"). Discretionary selections, if any, may be based on a variety of factors. Representative team selections, if any, shall be based on the USSA National Ranking List, developed from a competitor's best four USSA scored competitions (in which he/she competed as a USSA member) within the twelve months preceding the date of closing of the selection list on January 11, 2006 (tentative) (the "representative selection period").

(A) U-23 National Grand Champion. One (1) athlete per gender shall be selected to the team based solely upon their competition result at the U.S. Cross Country Championships. The winner of the men's and the women's U-23 National Grand Championship at the 2006 U.S. Cross Country Championships will be selected to the team. The U-23 National Grand Champion is selected by scoring an athlete's best three competitions during the U.S. Nationals (tentatively January 3-10) using the SuperTour scoring system.

(B) Coaches' Discretion. If after application of the objective criteria described in Section 5.A. team positions remain open, these positions may be filled at the discretion of the coaching staff. The number of individuals selected through coaches' discretion cannot exceed 25% of the total named team. If the coaching staff fills any available spots on the team using discretion, then the staff may consider any factors including, but not limited to, the following:

- 1) Outstanding competition results (including any results achieved outside of the selection period).
- 2) Recent direction or trend in competition results (i.e., improving, flat, or declining).
- 3) Attitude and commitment of athletes.
- 4) Physical fitness level.

- 5) Illness or injury during the selection period.
- 6) Indicia of medal potential in future Olympic or World Championship competition, which would be materially enhanced by selection to team.
- 7) Other unanticipated failure of objective criteria to select an athlete likely to achieve competition results consistent with USSA program goals for the U-23 Championships.

(C) Objective Criteria.

Up to six (6) athletes per gender shall be selected to the team based solely upon their World Cup competition results during the objective selection period. Athletes finishing in the top-30 of an individual event shall be selected to the team, unless application of this criterion would result in a total of more than six (6) selections per gender, in which case USSA shall use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order:

- Most World Cup points.
- Lowest current USSA National Ranking List points.

- (D) Representative Team Selections.** If fewer than five (5) athletes per gender are selected to the team based upon both the objective criteria listed above and coaches' discretion, then USSA shall ensure that it fields a representative team by selecting as many additional athletes as may be necessary to bring the total team size up to, but not limited to, five (5) athletes per gender using the USSA National Ranking List. Representative team selections shall be granted to those athletes with the best ranking on the January 12, 2006 (tentative) updated USSA points list, in order, until a representative team is filled.

Athletes who qualify for the U23 World Championship will be self-funded.

6. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SELECTIONS

Selections to the 2006 U23 Championship team shall be announced on January 12, 2006 (tentative) at the offices of USSA in Park City, UT, and shall be published immediately upon announcement.

7. ATHLETE REPLACEMENT PROCEDURE

In the case that an athlete who has been selected to the team becomes injured or ill prior the U23 Championship and is unable to compete, no replacement athlete will be named unless it is deemed that there is sufficient time to make a replacement without disrupting the competition or preparation of other athletes and that the additional athlete would have sufficient time to prepare properly for the competition. This decision will be made by the Nordic Director for USSA after consulting with the Athletic Director of USSA, and USSA Development Coach. Should an additional athlete be considered, the procedures as outlined in Section 5.B. above will be followed to select that athlete. No athletes will be named to the team within five days of the start of the U23 Championships.

APPENDIX VII – USSA 2006 CROSS COUNTRY WORLD CUP TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

1. **USSA POLICY**

USSA policy mandates that team selection criteria shall be principally objective (or performance-based) and that available start rights and team spots will not necessarily be filled.

2. **TEAM SIZE**

The team selected by USSA may consist of any number of athletes up to the FIS World Cup quota for the United States.

3. **START RIGHTS**

The quota of start rights per nation is set annually by the FIS.

4. **ELIGIBILITY FOR CONSIDERATION**

USSA will consider for selection only those USSA members in good standing with valid U.S. passports and a valid FIS license, who meet FIS minimum eligibility standards. An athlete shall be ineligible for consideration if he/she is not fit to compete at the time selections are made due to any injury or illness from which he/she is not expected to recover adequately by the time of the World Cup competitions he/she has been selected for.

5. **TEAM SELECTION PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA**

The U.S. Ski Team Head Coach is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the oversight of the Chief Executive Officer, Vice President of Athletics, and Nordic Director of USSA. No minimum team size will be established. Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in FIS competitions scored to the FIS points list, World Cup and Olympic competitions held during the 2005/2006 season, and World Cup Overall, Sprint World Cup, Distance World Cup and SuperTour competitions held between October 1, 2005 and March 1, 2006 (the "selection period"). Discretionary selections, if any, may be based on a variety of factors, including competitions conducted outside of the selection period.

(a) Coaches' Discretion. USSA may select athletes to the team using coaches' discretion. The coaching staff may make selections based upon factors other than the objective criteria, and if the coaching staff fills any available spot(s) on the team with discretionary selections, then the staff may consider any factors including (but not limited to) the following:

- 1) Outstanding competition results (including results achieved outside of the selection period).
- 2) Recent direction or trend of competition results (i.e., improving, flat, or declining).
- 3) Attitude and commitment of athletes.
- 4) Physical fitness level.
- 5) Illness or injury during the selection period.
- 6) Indicia of medal potential in future Olympic or World Championship competition, which would be materially enhanced by selection to team. Other unanticipated failure of objective criteria to select an athlete likely to achieve competition results consistent with USSA program goals for World Cup.

(b) Objective Criteria. Additional athletes shall be selected to the team based solely upon their competition results during the selection period. Athletes meeting criteria (b) 1-2 shall be selected to the team, unless application of this criteria would result in a total team size exceeding the FIS quota, in which case USSA shall use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order:

- (a) Most World Cup points
 - (b) Lowest current FIS points
 - (c) Lowest current USSA points
1. Individuals who meet the following criteria will be selected to the World Cup Cross Country Team for World Cup Period 1 (tentatively December 8-19, 2005):
 - Attain a World Cup Overall or FIS Distance Points List international ranking in the top-50 at the conclusion of the 2004/2005 season.
 - Attain a World Cup Sprint or FIS Sprint Points List international ranking in the top-30 at the conclusion of the 2004/2005 season.
 - Attain a World Cup Distance ranking in the top-30 at the conclusion of the 2004/2005 season.
 - USSA shall ensure that it will fill the sprint quota set by FIS for the World Cup competitions in Canada by selecting as many additional athletes as may be necessary to fill the quota, based on the best cumulative total results of an athlete's best two of three SuperTour sprint races tentatively scheduled for November 5, 2005 (Fairbanks, AK), November 12, 2005 (Anchorage, AK) and November 25, 2005 (West Yellowstone, MT), using the SuperTour scoring system outlined in the USSA Competition Guide. The tie-breaking procedure is also outlined in the USSA Competition Guide.
 - USSA shall ensure that it will fill the distance quota set by FIS for the World Cup competitions in Canada by selecting as many additional athletes as may be necessary to fill the quota, based on the best cumulative total results of an athlete's best two of three SuperTour distance races tentatively scheduled for November 6, 2005 (Fairbanks, AK), November 13, 2005 (Anchorage, AK) and November 26, 2005 (West Yellowstone, MT), using the SuperTour scoring system outlined in the USSA Competition Guide. The tie-breaking procedure is also outlined in the USSA Competition Guide.
 2. Individuals who meet the following criteria will be selected to the 2006 World Cup Cross Country Team for World Cup Period 2 (tentatively January 21, 2006 - February 6, 2006).
 - a. Attain a current World Cup Overall, Sprint World Cup, Distance World Cup or FIS points list ranking (sprint or distance) within the top-40 on the most current publication at the completion of World Cup Period 1 (tentatively scheduled for December 19, 2005).
 3. Individuals who meet the following criteria will be selected to the 2006 World Cup Cross Country Team for World Cup Period 3 (tentatively March 4-19, 2006), if USA fields a team (tentative plans are only to attend the races in Japan).
 - b. Ranking with the top-40 of the World Cup Overall, Sprint World Cup, Distance World Cup or FIS sprint or distance points list on February 6, 2006.
 - c. Attain a top-15 individual finish at the 2006 Olympic Winter Games.
 - d. Be granted an additional quota spot by FIS in the March World Cup competitions by (tentatively) winning the SuperTour overall, SuperTour sprint overall, or SuperTour distance overall.

Athletes qualifying for the World Cup team will, in many cases, be self-funded.