

# CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE MINUTES

## USSA CONGRESS 2007 - PARK CITY, UT

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May 16-19, 2007

Chair: Jon Engen

### 1. Chairman's Introduction

Mr. Engen made the following remarks: "Welcome to the cross country meetings of the 2007 USSA Congress. After a winter the FIS President called catastrophic for snow sports, we would rather say we had a pretty good year. Cross country is doing better than we have in the past, both the programs in Park City as well as around the country.

We had two skiers hitting the World Cup podium this winter, a silver medalist in the U-23 World Championship, one skier on top of the podium of the Europa Cup and fine results in the Junior World Championships. We have good recruiting and elevating the national performance level. It was especially fun to see a high school senior from Sun Valley, Idaho win the National Women's Championship and a young junior from the recently created High Plains District of Wyoming obliterate the field at the Junior Nationals.

One section of our organization that is easy to take for granted is our Officials Committee and their work. We have seen substantial progress in the quality of our events in the last few years, especially after the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City. We have better event organizers; more and better-qualified TDs and generally have no problem identifying someone in principal charge. This is of great importance for fairness in sport and the health and safety of our athletes. We commend Bob Gross and the Officials Committee for their work.

To summarize where we are now and are heading, it is helpful to generate a little perspective. I walked onto the 1988 Team, which was comprised of very talented individuals, but clearly lacked a plan and resources to excel. The program was based on regional training groups, but we lacked the overall ability to synergize these efforts. The regional programs continued, and the Western training group placed four women in the top 30 in the World Championships in Thunder Bay a few years later. The coach, Torbjorn Karlsen, stated in a recent conversation: "I wish we could have built on what we had at that time." This year we had three women in the top 13 of the U-23 World Championships. Let's make sure we have programs in Park City and elsewhere for these ladies.

Right before accepting the Chairmanship, I had a long conversation with Sun Valley Coach Rick Kapala. Rick stated: "I have spent 15 years developing athletes, where do we send them?" That is a dual question, to the USSA as well as the Clubs, but the key is creating opportunity.

Jim Galanes stated a couple of years ago in the Anchorage newspaper that US skiing would not get anywhere before people would start to see beyond the Alaska State Championships.

These statements are for VISION, OPPORTUNITY and BUILDING, and go a long way in explaining what the USSA cross country community is creating today.

We have better programs and coaches around the country than ever before. We have USSA and U.S. Ski Team staff and resources in multiples of what we had a just a few years ago, and we have interaction up and down the ladder. Our discussions have turned to topics of performance rather than pure existence.

The USSA is directing more attention to cross country than we have seen before, and our Performance and Development Plan has been praised by the present and previous USSA Chairmen, and our programs and results are being watched by many.

The USSA board of directors has repeatedly been reminded that cross country counts for 36 Olympic medals, the USA cannot become best in the world of snow sports without cross country, and investments in the sport are necessary.

One exciting USSA initiative is the Training Center here in Park City. This will be a complete training, testing and performance education center for snow sports. I have supported this plan since the very beginning with the understanding that no funding will be taken from athletic programs for its generation.

Finally, I would like to express a big thanks to the staff for participating in these meetings and assembling a very good agenda.”

## 2. Roll Call

The following Committee members were recognized as being present:

Luke Bodensteiner (Term limit: by employment)  
Patrick Casey (Term limit: Spring '09)  
Joey Caterinichio (Term limit: Spring '09)  
Janice Sibilila (Term limit: Spring '09)  
Jon Engen (Term limit: Spring '08)  
Andrew Gerlach (Term limit: Spring '09)  
John Callahan (Term limit: Spring '09)  
Bob Gross (Term limit: Spring '08)  
Yuriy Gusev (Term limit: Spring '08)  
Rick Kapala (Term limit: Spring '08)  
Nina Kemppel (Term limit: Spring '08)  
Chris Klein (Term limit: Spring '07)  
Bill Sterling (Term limit: Spring '09)  
Kevin Sweeney (Term limit: Spring '07)  
Carl Swenson (Ex-officio, AAC)  
Matt Whitcomb (Term limit: by employment)

Mr. Engen declared a quorum and called for nominations for the athlete representative and at-large seats that will open at the end of the meeting.

The Committee **appointed** Carl Swenson to the vacancy that will be left by Chris Klein.

Kevin Sweeney **expressed** his intent not to run for re-election.

Upon a motion made by Rick Kapala and seconded by John Callahan, Andrew Gerlach was **re-elected** as an at-large member.

Upon a motion made by Bill Sterling and seconded by Rick Kapala, August Teague was **elected** as an at-large member to the committee.

## 3. Additions to the Agenda

The following items were added to the agenda at the request of Andrew Gerlach:

- Report on the state of the ski industry
- Role of the U.S. Ski Team in the ski community
- Role of the Committee

#### 4. Approval of Minutes, Congress '06

The minutes of the 2006 Congress were distributed one month prior to the meeting, and on a motion from Andrew Gerlach and a second from Kevin Sweeney, the minutes were **approved**.

#### 5. Reports and Proposals from Officials' Subcommittee

Bob Gross presented the proposals from the Officials' Subcommittee:

- Subcommittee members are Bob Gross, Jim Rodrigues, Carlie Casey, Scott Wilson, Lori Gates, John Estle and Sally Jones.
- On a motion made by Bob Gross and seconded by Scott Wilson, the following change to Rule 352.1.1 was **approved**: “For all competitions listed in the FIS calendar and/or scored by USSA, electronic timekeeping must be used. Electronic timing with a start wand, and a photo cell or photo-finish timing camera (using 1,000 frames per second or faster) must be used. Timing chips may be used for skier identification and intermediate timing. Electronic timing will always be supplemented by hand-timing as a backup system and the results cross-checked between the two systems.”
- Upon a motion made by Bob Gross and seconded by Bill Sterling, Junior Olympic rules 82.1.3 and 82.1.4 will be **removed** from the rule book (**approved**).
- Upon a motion by Bob Gross and seconded by Kevin Sweeney, the following was **approved**: No prize money may be paid to an athlete in a SuperTour race, who does not have a FIS code prior to the competition, which is activated in their FIS athlete profile.
- Upon a motion by Bob Gross and seconded by Andrew Gerlach, the following was **approved**: Competitors will be seeded according to the FIS/USSA points on the current points list, and not in the athlete profile.
- A new USSA TD report is being developed and will be ready for use during the coming season.
- Upon a motion by Bob Gross and seconded by Chris Klein, the following was **approved**; SuperTour chiefs of competition must attend a national or regional seminar every second year, and new SuperTour organizers must attend a seminar as a condition of entry into the SuperTour.
- A FIS TD seminar will be held in Manchester, NH, Oct. 12-14 – only Level 200 TDs and higher will be invited.
- Upon a motion made by Bob Gross and seconded by Yuriy Gusev, a \$300 late fee will be imposed on any schedule agreements returned to USSA after the published Dec. 1 deadline for submission was **approved**.

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

*U.S. Cross Country Championships, Houghton, MI*  
TD – Gary Giberson

*USSA Junior Olympics*  
TD – Bob Gross

*NCAA Championships*  
TD – Doug Ouren

## 6. Reports and Proposals from Coaches' Subcommittee

Rick Kapala made the following proposals:

- Subcommittee membership includes; Pat Casey, Joey Caterinichio, John Callahan, Bill Sterling, Janice Sibilía, Yuriy Gusev, Andy Gerlach, August Teague, Rick Kapala, Nina Kemppel, Luke Bodensteiner, Jon Engen, Matt Whitcomb, Eli Brown, Scott Jerome, Bryan Fish, Ben Husaby, Reid Lutter, Chris Grover, Alison Deines, Pete Phillips, Pete Vordenberg, Eric Flora, Will Sweetser, Sverre Caldwell, Fredrick Landstedt, Cory Schwartz, Sten Fjeldheim.
- The 2008 U.S. Ski Team operational plan as presented by the U.S. Ski Team staff was **accepted and endorsed**.
- That a planning meeting of the coaches with athletes in the Continental Cup Team should be held in conjunction with the Long Distance Nationals was **approved**.
- A proposal to change the name “Junior Olympics” to “Junior Nationals” will be **investigated**.
- The following Junior Olympic rules were **approved**:

### 89 The Roger Weston High School Team Award (HSTA)

89.1 The Roger Weston Award honors the top high school boys' and top high school girls' teams competing at U.S. Junior National Championships. The award was initiated to recognize the valuable contribution from high school skiing to the development of cross country ski racing across the USA. Roger Weston was instrumental in developing the sport of cross country skiing in the Mid-Atlantic division and across the US.

89.2 The High School Boys' and the HS Girls' Trophies will be presented at the final JN Awards banquet.

89.2.1 Skiers must be currently enrolled and attending high school at the time of the competition to be eligible. Any skier who has received a high school diploma or the equivalent certification, is ineligible, even if they are attending a school as a PG skier.

89.2.2 Each skier's high school membership must be listed on the official divisional team entry form at the time of official team registration to be included in the scoring of the event.

89.2.3 A high school Team must have at least 3 members to be scored for the HSTA. There is no limit to the number of skiers a HST may enter.

89.3 Points towards scoring of the HSTA will be collected from the individual sprint, and two individual distance events.

89.4 Scoring for team awards is separate for the boys and the girls. Scoring described hereafter applies to both genders. Within each gender, the points earned by a High School Team are collected from the three age classes, J2, J1, OJ are combined to sum one total score.

89.5 Within each age class scoring is as follows, 1<sup>st</sup> – 100 points, 2<sup>nd</sup>-99, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 98, 4<sup>th</sup>- 97, 5<sup>th</sup> – 96 and so on until all competitors are scored or 100 skiers are scored.

89.6 A High School Team's score for a given event is calculated by adding the best three individual scores from any of the three age classes.

89.7 The final team score is calculated by adding their team scores from each of the three individual events.

89.8 The JN organizer has the responsibility to compile the High School Team scores.

89.9 The Boys' Team and Girls' Team Trophies are provided by the National Cross Country Ski Foundation. The winning team is presented the traveling team trophy to be maintained in their possession until the next JN's. In addition, a plaque is to be presented to each winning team.

#### USSA Club Team Awards

#### 90 The USSA Junior National Club Team Awards (JNCTA)

90.1 The JNTCA recognizes the top boys, girls and combined boys & girls club teams competing at US Junior National Championships. The award was initiated to recognize the importance of strong clubs to the development of a strong national ski program.

90.2 The JNTCA Trophies will be presented at the final JN Awards banquet.

90.2.1 To be eligible for inclusion in the club scoring, a club must be recognized as a current USSA member cross country ski club at the start of the competitive season, to be determined as the first official event on the US NRL calendar. All club applications must be submitted and processed by the USSA membership department prior to the first NRL event.

90.2.2 A skier's club membership must be listed on the official divisional team entry form at the time of official team registration to be included in the scoring of the event.

90.2.3 A club team must have at least 1 member in total (boys and girls combined) to be scored for the JNCTA. There is no limit to the number of skiers a club may enter.

90.2.4 A given skier may only represent 1 club team during the course of a competitive season. Note that any skier who is a current member or a red-shirt of any NCAA team, may not under any circumstance also represent a club team, per NCAA eligibility rules.

90.3 Points towards scoring of the JNCTA will be collected from the individual sprint, and two individual distance events.

90.4 Scoring for team awards is separate for the boys and the girls. Scoring described hereafter applies to both genders. Within each gender, the points earned by a club team are collected from the three age classes, J2, J1, OJ. Each age class is scored and is combined to sum one total boys' score and one total girls' score. The boys' score and girls' scores are then added together to compile a combined club team score

90.5 The World Cup scoring method is used.

90.6 A club team's score for a given event is calculated by adding all the points earned by their skiers in all age classes. There is no limit on how many individuals from a team may score. There is no displacement in the scoring method.

90.7 A final club team score is calculated by adding their team scores from each of the three individual events.

90.8 The JN organizer has the responsibility to compile the club team scores.

90.9 The Boys, Girls and Overall Club Team Trophies are provided by the National Cross Country Ski Foundation. The winning team is presented the traveling team trophy to be maintained in their possession until the next JN's. In addition, a plaque is to be presented to each winning team.

#### Timing and Start Formats

80.6 All individual distance mass start events at JN's are to be organized according to the Chevron start method.

80.7 The J2, J1 and OJ age classes races in the mass start race are to be run as separate events.

#### Seeding and the Draw

##### Seeding for J2's in the Mass Start Race

83.6 **Strike** (mass and pursuit start formats)

83.6.1 **Add** The J2 mass start race is seeded directly from the results of the qualifying round of the sprint event. The number 1 qualifier is seeded as the number 1 starter in the mass start.

83.6.2 In the case of a skier who did not start in the sprint qualification. Each division may substitute one athlete into any earned seed start from the division's earned start positions. If, in the case that more than one skier DNS, then any and all skiers over the one allowable substitute may be included in the start but the start position will be randomized at the rear of the J2 seeded start field.

#### 75 Staff

75.3.1 **Change to read** Staff members who are not credentialed coaches are permitted only in event areas designated as public.

75.3.2 **Strike**

75.4 **Change to read** "On Course Identification of Coaches"

75.4.1 **Change to read** up to a maximum of 15, of which 4 are red and the remainder are green.

66.1.1 **Add** The maximum permissible entry fee is \$150 and Change the OC may establish its own price for coach credentials in excess of 15.

70.1.2 **Strike** or top 10 at the Nordic combined Junior world championship trials.

70.1.5 **Amend to read** Members of the World Junior Biathlon Team and the World Junior Nordic combined team are automatically qualified to enter the JN's as part of the team from their home division, but not counted against their divisions' or districts' quota as specified in rule 074.

- The Junior National Championship that has been awarded to Presque Isle for 2009 was **postponed** until 2010 due to a date conflict with the Biathlon World Cup in the area, and Auburn Ski Club (Soda Spring, CA) was **awarded** the right to host the 2009 Junior National Championship.
- The national calendar was **approved** and is included in these minutes as an appendix.
- A proposal to order the JO sprint finals according to the order of the classes in qualification was **approved**.
- A proposal to give free credentials to Junior Olympic divisional teams as follows, was **approved**:
  - Teams of less than 30 athletes = 6 free credentials
  - Team 30-42 = 7 free
  - Teams 43+ = 8 free
- A proposal to increase the number of course bibs that are allotted to each Junior Olympic divisional team from 10 to 12 (three of which can be RED) was approved.
- A proposal to require that all issued Junior Olympic coach credentials must be approved by the division's team leader or head coach was approved.
- A proposal to require coaching credentials only (not bibs) for access to the wax cabins at the Junior Olympics was approved.
- Only teams made up of two U.S. national championship-eligible skiers may be declared U.S. Champions in the Team Sprint – approved.
- Seeding at the National Championship and SuperTour races will be based on “best available” (e.g. FIS or USSA) points in the respective discipline – approved.
- Presque Isle was approved provisionally to host the 2009 Junior Olympics, contingent upon completing the homologation of their trails for the specified formats.
- Selection criteria for the 2008 U23 World Championship, Junior World Championship and Nordic Junior Championships (JI Cup) are approved and included in these minutes as an appendix.
- The entry fee for Junior Olympics is approved at \$150, effective immediately.

## 7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place in May 2007 in Park City. The meeting of the Officials' Subcommittee will be scheduled for Wednesday during the Congress, 2:00 pm-9:00 pm.

## APPENDIX I – CALENDAR – 2008

### CALENDAR DRAFT - 2008

| Date       | Location                            | Comments  |
|------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Nov. 23-24 | West Yellowstone, MT<br>(Confirmed) | SuperTour<br>Sprint F, 10/15km C  |
| Dec. 8-9   | Bozeman, MT<br>(Confirmed)          | Sprint C, 10/15km F   |
| Dec. 15-16 | Soldier Hollow, UT<br>(Confirmed)   | Sprint C, 10/15km F mass-start  |
| Jan. 1-6   | Houghton, MI<br>(Confirmed)         | U.S. Short Distance Nationals – SuperTour<br>Day 1: 5/10km F<br>Day 3: 10/15km C<br>Day 5: Sprint F ( <b>30 in Finals</b> )<br>Day 6: Team Sprint C |
| Jan. 12-13 | Trollhaugen, WI (to be confirmed)   | SuperTour/Midwest Grand Prix<br>Sprint F<br>Sprint C<br><b>March W. Cup selection after Trollhaugen</b>   |
| Jan. 19-20 | Mt. Itasca, MN<br>(Confirmed)       | SuperTour/Midwest Grand Prix<br>10/10km C, 10/10km F  |
| Jan. 23-27 | Telemark, WI<br>(Confirmed)         | SuperTour/Midwest Grand Prix<br>Sprint F<br>5/10km C, 10/15km F mass-start  |
| Feb. 2-3   | Madison, WI<br>(Confirmed)          | SuperTour/Midwest Grand Prix<br>Team Sprint F, Sprint C, US 100   |
| Feb. 7-9   | Aspen, CO (Confirmed)               | SuperTour<br>5/10km C<br>30/30km F mass-start   |
| Feb. 23    | Hayward, WI<br>(Confirmed)          | American Birkebeiner<br>52km F mass-start   |
| Mar. 10-15 | Anchorage, AK                       | Jos   |
| Mar. 5-8   | Bozeman, MT                         | NCAA Championship   |
| Mar. 15-23 | Vancouver, CAN                      | Canadian Nationals  |
| Mar. 28-30 | TBD                                 | U.S. Distance Nationals/SuperTour Finals<br>Mar. 31: Pursuit<br>April 1: 30/50km C mass-start   |

#### National Calendar Distribution (not including Jos, NAAs and Canadian Nationals)

7 freestyle distance competitions  
 6 classic distance competitions  
 4 freestyle sprint competitions  
 4 classic sprint competitions  
 1 pursuit competition  
 1 freestyle team sprint  
 1 classic team sprint

## APPENDIX II - USSA 2008 JUNIOR NORDIC CHAMPIONSHIP 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 (6 per sex) may represent the United States in the 2008 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 1990 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 staff is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the oversight of the Nordic Director of USSA. In order to ensure that the United States fields a representative team, 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, 15km and Sprint competitions (including junior finals if applicable), and women's 5km, 10km and Sprint competitions (including junior finals if applicable) at the 2008 U.S. Cross Country Championships, tentatively scheduled for Jan. 2-5, 2008 (the "selection period"). Discretionary selections, if any, may be based on a variety of factors, including competitions conducted outside of the selection period.

**(a) Coaches' Discretion.** USSA may select up to 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 1990 or later), using the World Cup scoring system outlined in the USSA Competition Guide. 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 III - USSA 2008 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 staff is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the oversight of the Nordic Director of USSA. In order to ensure that the United States fields a representative team, minimum team size shall consist of five (5) athletes per sex. Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in SuperTour competitions held between January 8 and December 24, 2007, and in the men's 10km, 15km and Sprint (including Junior Finals, if applicable) competitions and women's 5km, 10km and Sprint (including Junior Finals, if applicable) competitions at the 2008 U.S. Cross Country Championships, tentatively scheduled for Jan. 1-5, 2008 (the "selection period"). Discretionary selections, if any, may be based on a variety of factors, including competitions conducted outside of the selection period.

**(a) Coaches' Discretion.** USSA may select up to four (4) 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 results (FIS points) between January 8 and December 24, 2007. Male athletes achieving a FIS point result under 80 FIS points in a SuperTour distance race, or under 90 FIS points in a SuperTour sprint race, and female athletes achieving a FIS point result under 90 FIS points in a SuperTour distance race, or under 100 FIS points in a SuperTour sprint race between November 22 and December 17, 2007 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 (held between January 8 and December 24, 2007)
  - Second best FIS points in a SuperTour competition (held between January 8 and December 24, 2007)
  - Third best FIS points in a SuperTour competition (held between January 8 and December 24, 2007)
  - Fourth best FIS points in a SuperTour competition (held between January 8 and December 24, 2007)
- 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 2008 Junior World Championship team shall be announced on January 5, 2008 (tentative) at the offices of USSA in Park City, Utah, and shall be published immediately upon announcement.

## **APPENDIX IV – USSA 2008 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 1985 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 2008 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 Nordic Director of USSA. Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in National Championship competitions held between January 2-6, 2008 (tentative), World Cup competitions held between October 1 and December 17, 2007, and SuperTour competitions held between January 8 and December 24, 2007 (the "objective selection period"). Discretionary selections, if any, may be based on a variety of factors.

#### **(A) Objective Criteria.**

- 1) 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.
- 2) Up to two (2) athletes per gender shall be selected to the team based solely upon their SuperTour competition results (FIS points) held during the objective selection period. Male athletes achieving a FIS point result under 70 FIS points in a distance race, or under 95 FIS points in a sprint race, and female athletes achieving a FIS point result under 105 FIS points in a distance race, or under 125 FIS points in a sprint race between January 8, 2007 and December 24, 2007 shall be selected to the team, unless application of this criterion would result in a total of more than six (6) objective selections per gender, in which case USSA shall use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order:
  - Most World Cup points
  - Best FIS points in a FIS competition specified by the objective selection period

- Second best FIS points in a FIS competition specified by the objective selection period
- Third best FIS points in a FIS competition specified by the objective selection period
- Fourth best FIS points in a FIS competition specified by the objective selection period

**(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) 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 based on the best cumulative total results of an athlete's best two individual 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 2008 U23 Championship team shall be announced on January 6, 2008 (tentative) at the offices of USSA in Park City, Utah and shall be published immediately upon announcement.

## APPENDIX V – USSA 2008 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 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 competitions held during the 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 seasons, and SuperTour competitions held between November 15, 2007 and January, 2008 (tentative, 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.
- 7) 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 on the most current World Cup ranking list used for selection
  - (b) Lowest current FIS points (sprint or distance, whichever is lower)
  - (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 October 27-December 17, 2007):
    - Attain a World Cup Overall or FIS Distance Points List international ranking in the top-50 at the conclusion of the 2006/2007 season.
    - Attain a World Cup Sprint or FIS Sprint Points List international ranking in the top 30 at the conclusion of the 2006/2007 season.
    - Attain a World Cup Distance ranking in the top-30 at the conclusion of the 2006/2007 season.
    - Win the 2007 Overall SuperTour title.
  2. Individuals who meet the following criteria will be selected to the World Cup Cross Country Team for World Cup Period 2 (January 22-26, 2008):
    - Attain a current World Cup Overall, Sprint World Cup, Distance World Cup or FIS points list ranking (sprint or distance) within the top-30 on the most current publication at the completion of World Cup Period 2 (tentatively scheduled for December 17, 2007).
    - The leaders of the Overall SuperTour classification (man and woman) on January 7, 2008.
    - USSA shall ensure that it will fill the distance quota set by FIS for the World Cup competitions in Canada by selecting - in rank order from the SuperTour distance overall classification on January 7, 2008 - as many additional athletes as may be necessary to fill that quota.
    - USSA shall ensure that it will fill the sprint quota set by FIS for the World Cup competitions in Canada by selecting - in rank order from the SuperTour sprint overall classification on January 7, 2008 - as many additional athletes as may be necessary to fill that quota.
  3. Individuals who meet the following criteria will be selected to the World Cup Cross Country Team for World Cup period 3 (February 9-March 16, 2008).
    - Attain a current World Cup Overall, Sprint World Cup, Distance World Cup or FIS points list ranking (sprint or distance) within the top-30 on the most current publication at the completion of World Cup Period 2 (tentatively scheduled for January 27, 2008).
    - Finish in the top-10 of an individual event in the World Cup competitions held in Canada January 22-26, 2008.
    - The leaders of the Overall SuperTour classification (man and woman) on January 14, 2008 will be able to start in the World Cup competitions from February 9-March 8, 2008.

The leaders of the Distance and Sprint SuperTour classifications (men and women) on January 14, 2008 will be able to start in the World Cup competitions from March 1-8, 2008.

## **APPENDIX VI - USSA 2009 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 staff is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the oversight of the Nordic Director of USSA. In order to ensure that the United States fields a representative team, minimum team size shall consist of five (5) athletes per sex. Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in SuperTour competitions held between January 7 and December 24, 2008, and in the men's 10km, 15km and Sprint (including Junior Finals, if applicable) competitions and women's 5km, 10km and Sprint (including Junior Finals, if applicable) competitions at the 2009 U.S. Cross Country Championships, tentatively scheduled for Jan. 6-10, 2009 (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 four (4) 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 results (FIS points) between January 7 and December 24, 2008. Male athletes achieving a FIS point result under 80 FIS points in a SuperTour distance race, or under 90 FIS points in a SuperTour sprint race, and female athletes achieving a FIS point result under 90 FIS points in a SuperTour distance race, or under 100 FIS points in a SuperTour sprint race between January 7 and December 24, 2008 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 (held between January 7 and December 24, 2008)
  - Second best FIS points in a SuperTour competition (held between January 7 and December 24, 2008)
  - Third best FIS points in a SuperTour competition (held between January 7 and December 24, 2008)
  - Fourth best FIS points in a SuperTour competition (held between January 7 and December 24, 2008)
- 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 2009 Junior World Championship team shall be announced on January 11, 2009 (tentative) at the offices of USSA in Park City, Utah, and shall be published immediately upon announcement.

## **APPENDIX VII USSA 2009 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 1986 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 2009 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 6-10, 2009 (tentative), World Cup competitions held between October 1 and December 17, 2008, and SuperTour competitions held between January 7 and December 24, 2008 (the "objective selection period"). Discretionary selections, if any, may be based on a variety of factors.

#### **(a.) Objective Criteria.**

- 1) 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.
- 2) Up to two (2) athletes per gender shall be selected to the team based solely upon their SuperTour competition results (FIS points) held during the objective selection period. Male athletes achieving a FIS point result under 70 FIS points in a distance race, or under 95 FIS points in a sprint race, and female athletes achieving a FIS point result under 105 FIS points in a distance race, or under 125 FIS points in a sprint race between January 7 and December 24, 2008 shall be selected to the team, unless application of this criterion would result in a total of more than six (6) objective selections per gender, in which case USSA shall use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order:
  - Most World Cup points
  - Best FIS points in a FIS competition specified by the objective selection period

- Second best FIS points in a FIS competition specified by the objective selection period
- Third best FIS points in a FIS competition specified by the objective selection period
- Fourth best FIS points in a FIS competition specified by the objective selection period

**(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.) 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 based on the best cumulative total results of an athlete's best two individual 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 2008 U23 Championship team shall be announced on January 11, 2008 (tentative) at the offices of USSA in Park City, Utah and shall be published immediately upon announcement.