

USSA CROSS COUNTRY SPORT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 21-22, 2004

Cross Country Committee - May 21, 8:00 am – 9:00 am

1. Call to Order

Lee Todd, Chairman of the Cross Country Committee, welcomed all of the Committee members, and guests of the Committee.

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

2. Roll Call

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

John Aalberg (Officials Chairman)	Term limit: Spring '05
Luke Bodensteiner (Nordic Director)	Term limit: by employment
Joey Caterinichio (Alaska)	Term limit: Spring '04
Pat Cote (East)	Term limit: Spring '07
Jon Engen (Athlete)	Term limit: Spring '06
Andrew Gerlach (At-large)	Term limit: Spring '04
Gary Giberson (Mountain)	Term limit: Spring '07
Chris Grover (Development)	Term limit: by employment
Rick Kapala (Coaches' Chairman)	Term limit: Spring '06
Chris Klein (Athlete)	Term limit: Spring '04
Bill Sterling (Pacific)	Term limit: Spring '04
Kevin Sweeney (At-large)	Term limit: Spring '04
Lee Todd (Chairman)	Term limit: Spring '03
Scott Wilson (Central), sub. for Dennis Kruse	Term limit: Spring '05

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

Nina Kempfel (Athlete)	Term limit: Spring '05
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Mr. Bodensteiner also recognized the following guests; Bill Clark, Bruce Cranmer, Sten Fjeldheim, Lori Gates, Bob Gross, Yuriy Gusev, Glenn Jobe, Sally Jones, Frederick Landstedt, Matt Laue, Tim Miner, Ernie Page, Bill Pierce, and August Teague.

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

3. Additions to the Agenda

Mr. Todd stated that the agenda had been distributed prior to the meeting, and called for additions to the agenda. Mr. Bodensteiner stated that he had received an application from the organizers in Boise, ID, who would like to organize a U.S. Rollerskiing Championship. Additionally, he stated that he could report on the Committee's request to examine a distance and sprint national ranking list, and the Committee agreed to both additions.

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

4. Approval of Minutes, Fall Meetings '03

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

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

Motion carries.

5. Nomination and Election Process for Chairman Athlete and At-large Members

Mr. Todd informed the Committee that the terms of the regional representatives from Alaska and Pacific, the at-large representatives, and athlete representative Chris Klein expired after this meeting.

He stated that the regional representatives were appointed by their respective regions, and asked Mr. Sterling and Ms. Caterinichio if they could confirm to the Committee that their regions were willing to re-confirm them as their representatives, and they both confirmed.

He then stated that the athlete representatives were appointed by the members of the Committee. He stated that recently, Mr. Engen had been re-appointed through a general election by the athletes, who only yielded a single candidate. Therefore, he stated, there did not seem to be any athletes willing to take on a role with the Committee except those already in position. Mr. Engen nominated Chris Klein to fill the athlete representative position for another term, and the nomination was accepted by the Committee.

He stated that nominations for the at-large positions would stay open until June 21, after which the Committee would vote. He stated that a vote would only be necessary if more than two candidates were presented. He appointed Mr. Bodensteiner to manage the nomination and voting process.

6. Selection of Executive Committee - 2004

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

Mr. Todd recommended that this structure be valid for the next year.

Mr. Wilson made a motion to accept the proposal, and was seconded by Mr. Gerlach.

Motion carries.

7. Staff Report

Mr. Todd asked Mr. Bodensteiner for his staff report.

Mr. Bodensteiner stated that the longtime members of the Cross Country Committee, Subcommittees and working groups had seen a lot of changes to the program over the years. He stated the importance of the changes, and noted that even in the case of controversial changes, the group had always been instrumental in helping to navigate the playing field, and in managing the change that came with it. He thanked the members for their help with important programs like the establishment

of the SuperTour, the re-vamping of the national ranking list and team selection systems, the shift to residence-based training for the top athletes, and the re-ignition of the development program.

He stated that the Committee had developed solid constants, which kept the program on-course even as our program had continued to evolve, including the core philosophies, direction, and goals. He reminded the Committee that ever since its meeting during the Congress after the Olympics in Nagano in 1998, the goal has been to win a medal in 2006, and the plans all along had supported that goal. He reported that the national team coaches had upped the ante and had set their target at multiple medals in 2006.

He noted constant growth in the total amount of prize money paid during the SuperTour, growing from about \$20,000 a season in 1997 to over \$120,000 this year. He stated that America's best race organizers supported the tour by organizing competitions in a calendar that was consolidated and planned strategically for the athletes, and by funding substantial prize money through local sources in an effort not only to support their own events, but also to professionalize the sport.

He stated that the organizers had played the crucial role of giving the developing skiers who the U.S. Ski Team hadn't had the resources to support a chance to stay in the sport, to support themselves, and to continue to develop, and equally importantly, to provide a great competition environment for those skiers coming up after them. He stated that skiers like Lars Flora, Rebecca Dussault, David Chamberlain, Carl Swenson and others, had benefited greatly from the efforts of the SuperTour organizers. He stated that the SuperTour had become one of the more efficient means of providing members of our ski community, from local organizers to local sponsors, to recreational racers, to benefit the top athletes.

He thanked the members of the Committee, Subcommittees and of the skiing community for steady leadership, which had helped to provide a consistency in programming. He stated that there's a real recognition by USSA's management and Board that the cross country community was totally supportive of the programs delivered by USSA, and that they were very effectively assuming leadership roles in the different areas of the pipeline, which ultimately supported USSA's vision of being the best in the world.

He stated that the image they portrayed was that the Committee's initiatives were focused on USSA's goals, that they were consistent, thoughtful and fair, and were always thinking about ways to bring their own resources and expertise to the table to add onto those elements of the program, which already provide the basis of the development system. He stated that their contributions had helped the athletes immensely in achieving goals at each level, and had played a vital role in the growth of the sport.

He stated that in each year since the Olympics in 1998, USSA's been able to report that the scope of the athletic achievements had improved in at least one, if not more categories, and that this year was no exception. He stated that the team saw outstanding performances on the World Cup, with the team scoring more World Cup points than in the last 10 years combined, including the year of the pre-Olympic World Cups at Soldier Hollow.

He stated that, in addition to the achievements of Kris Freeman and Carl Swenson, Andy Newell and Torin Koos each scored World Cup points in the Sprint, with Andy qualifying for the Finals in Torino, and Rebecca Dussault successfully capped off a comeback season with points in Torino, and others were close behind.

He stated that those increasingly good results at the top-end had also driven what was maybe the most subtle constant that the Committee's seen over most of the past decade, and that's been a gradual, yet constant shift in focus from development to the top-end.

He stated that those involved with USSA immediately after the Olympics in '98 would remember making drastic steps to reduce the World Cup team size and focus, and subsequently to kick off a

development program where none was functioning at the time. He stated that gradually, as development level skiers like Kris Freeman, Andrew Johnson, Torin Koos, Andy Newell, and others had graduated into the World Cup, the focus had drifted there with them.

He stated that this meant that the level of service delivered on the development side had decreased, which was a function of the fact that delivering a program, which allowed our top athletes to perform at the highest levels, was resource intensive. He stated that this was in line with the direction of the entire organization, with USSA's goal to be the best in the world by 2006.

He stated that the cross country program could contribute to the achievement of that goal by winning one, or more, medals in Torino, and that all of USSA's sports were putting a high percentage of their resources into their top-end athletes. He stated that the Committee should feel proud that, together with the coaches, they've helped to develop athletes, who can win medals in 2006, and who they can put their focus on.

He stated that, to that end, adjustments had been made to the program, some of which were very hard to reach, and were especially frustrating to Chris Grover since his program had delivered a lot, including multiple Europa Cup podiums in a season for the first time ever.

He stated that athlete funding for the Junior World Championships had been eliminated, although USSA would continue to fund coaches, and vehicles, so unlike the elimination of the JI funding last year, additional funding for those costs would not need to be borne by the athletes.

He stated that the size of the development team had been reduced to 4 athletes, from 7, and that those athletes would be responsible for a portion of their own expenses. He stated that the World Cup team had grown to eight skiers, which was a reflection of a good development system graduating its athletes to the next level of the pipeline, and that system would not change, although funding would. He stated that we had to recognize the difference between programming and funding.

He stated that only 10 athletes would be funded to the World Championships, but that this didn't mean that only 10 athletes would be selected to the team. He stated that the team would continue to select athletes in the same way as in the past, but only the 10 with the best World Ranking List rank first, and then FIS points ranked second, in either sprint or distance at the time of team selection would be funded.

He stated that the traditional team training camp in Alaska in late October and early November had been cancelled, and that the team would instead send the World Cup skiers, except for the sprinters and Rebecca, who would stay at home to compete in the SuperTour during the first half of the season, to Europe on November 1 with the goal of getting over there early enough to make the World Cup Competitions in December as productive as possible.

He stated that there was a recognition that this meant that very few skiers might travel to Alaska in the early season, the SuperTour organizers in Fairbanks and Anchorage were given an opt-out of their contract to host the events this year, which they both exercised. He stated that those events might come back next season depending on the team's strategy with the World Cup in the Olympic season, which depended somewhat on whether or not Canada would host the World Cup in December, 2005.

After the report, Mr. Kapala stated that the World Cup team was clearly a large budget draw, and that not much could be taken away from that. However, he stated, it takes a long time to develop top athletes, and the ability to graduate from clubs into a national development team was a big drive for young athletes, and the association needed to find ways to develop a broader feeder program for the national team. He stated that, in many ways, we'd be starting over in 2006, without enough time to develop new skiers for 2010 and 2014.

He stated that the pyramid was now inverted, with eight skiers on the World Cup team and four on development. He stated that getting Kris Freeman and Andrew Newell and others to the level of success they had now made exactly that point, and that their success now had been the product of the first stable development program in over twenty years.

Mr. Aalberg stated that the focus of the committee's work should be on the grassroots and regional levels, whereas now it was mainly focused on the top-end.

Mr. Todd stated that the work of the committee now focused on coaches and officials, and that both agendas had regional items on the front end of their agendas, but that maybe those should be a part of a larger discussion, which could take place after the normal business.

Mr. Kapala stated that good programs at the national level had driven higher levels of participation in racing than ever, but with the focus on the top end, lower level programs were just hanging on.

Mr. Sterling stated that there was probably room for the divisions to work with USSA to bridge from the regions to the development team by providing divisional funding for development skiers and projects, with all divisions chipping in. He stated that it was a real issue that we didn't have many mechanisms now to expose more developing athletes to the high-level coaching taking place on the U.S. Ski Team now. He proposed that the regions get together to talk about how they could come together to bring additional athletes into the development team.

Mr. Laue stated his opinion that reductions in Junior World Championship team funding should only be temporary, and should come back when the budgets come back.

Mr. Gerlach stated that USSA should put some pressure on the industry teams to shape themselves more into development programs, although this wouldn't affect junior development.

Mr. Fjeldheim stated that athletes weren't coming from the development team, but from the clubs, and before the regions focus on funding for development team projects, they needed to focus on creating good programs through coaches' education. He stated that there was a need to find where colleges fit into the development pipeline, independent of the U.S. Ski Team plan.

Ms. Caterinichio stated that the best thing was not necessarily to raise money and to name more kids to the development team, but to focus on doing a better job in the regions.

Mr. Jobe stated that the development team was an important topic, but these kids were junior skiers and had to be developed regionally, which also took a focus on coaches' education.

Mr. Gross stated that the pipeline was already in place, that the industry teams were a legitimate place to shoot for, and that we needed to continue to create heroes there.

Mr. Wilson stated that the emphasis on the Regional Elite Groups had to continue since its impacts were very meaningful and affordable in athlete and coach development. He stated that regional athletes at that level already had to raise funds for their own travel associated with the REG, which was something to focus on first.

Mr. Engen stated that the World Cup team needed to get to the top, and while the athletes had gotten close, they hadn't gotten there yet and stated his support for continued investment at the top end.

May 21, 9:15am – 6:00pm
Officials' Subcommittee

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

Review of misc. jury situations this passed season:

- Coaches' behavior
- Rules infractions in sprint finishes (U-23)
- Point issues and seeding (US Nationals)
- Layout of sprint courses (SuperTour)
- Finish line issues
- Temperature cancellations (Besh Cup, Alaska)

Summary:

The committee saw a need for a technical requirement manual for organizers, as well as a technical TD manual covering details of the new event formats (use of video cameras, jury work and communication, finish area setup and timing equipment requirements).

The discussion touched practical issues such as a need for a traveling USSA photo finish system (for sprints and mass-starts), a traveling transponder system (for mass-starts) and a consistent timing system. Regarding the seeding issue, the committee would like to add the following paragraph to the seeding rules in the Senior Nationals' Guidelines:

- After each event, the results of the top 15 finishers would be evaluated, and at the jury's discretion, the start seeds of any non-ranked competitors may be adjusted upwards

Regarding the layout of sprint courses, the committee wants to leave this very open, such that sprints can be held near populated areas, on city streets etc...

Regarding racing in cold temperatures, the officials' committee supports the practice of being careful in allowing races below or near the lower temperature limits, especially for junior skiers.

The committee suggested that all TD reports that were received at the USSA office be forwarded to the Chairman of the Officials' group.

2. Clarification of TD Fees and Expenses

The committee discussed setting clear guidelines for all organizers of USSA sanctioned events where a TD is required, and was repeating the motion/statement made last year:

For USSA Sanctioned races the TD was paid \$50 per day (including travel days), plus accommodation, food and transportation expenses, as well as the most economical travel (car mileage or airfare) to and from the site. For US Junior and Senior Nations, the Assistant TD was also paid the same fee and expenses, while at regular USSA sanctioned races, the Assistant TD (when officially assigned) gets room & board covered (not travel expenses).

3. Review of TD Certification Status and Database

The committee chair would continue to track all TD appointments, seminar participation and officials' certification, and report this to the USSA membership office for inclusion of certification level on USSA membership card.

The committee also requested from USSA a written statement describing the situation of liability insurance for USSA TD's at USSA sanctioned events.

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

The committee strongly asked USSA to develop a better process for collecting National Ranking List points from NRL races, and strongly supported an implementation of a new application to streamline and ease this process for event organizers and timing contractors. The current situation of organizers not being able to report points to the USSA office was not acceptable, and some effort and funds must be used to correct this situation.

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

The committee proposed to start creating a database of venues and competition courses. This would include a review of the competition courses with the goal of mapping and identifying which venues and courses would be suitable for the new event formats.

The committee also discussed some of the added technical issues of new event formats, such as a need for transponders (chips) for mass-start events (especially US Junior and Senior Nationals), photo-finish camera, use of leg bibs, etc.

The committee also recommended (for athlete fairness, organizational and timing reasons) to run mass-start races on longer (rather than shorter) distances, as well as to divide up the J1 and OJ class at the US Junior Nationals relay.

The committee briefly discussed the lack of TD's at sanctioned USSA Marathon races, and asked USSA staff if this situation should be brought up as a requirement with the Organizers. If this becomes a requirement, this committee was willing to host a seminar for long-distance/marathon TD's and Organizers.

6. Review of Proposals or Issues from the CCC Meeting

The committee would need to review all rules changed that were proposed in the Coaches' Committee before they were sent to the Cross-Country Executive Committee for approval. Regarding the proposal to start using two USSA points lists (one for distance and one for Sprint) the committee supported this.

7. Discuss Items/Challenges for Future Work in Officiating and Event Organization

See above (need for a technical manual)

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

The committee reviewed the status and work last year in the area of homologation and certification of high-level competition courses. Even though there was a strong statement last year that Championship and new high-level event courses were required to be homologated, very little activity was seen. Only Michigan Tech, Auburn Ski Club and Presque Isle took an active role in homologating new courses last year.

The committee felt that USSA must continue to require the homologation requirement for all high-level events (SuperTour, FIS races and US Junior and Senior Championships). This would ensure that our best athletes were skiing on courses similar to what was used in International events, and that the strongest and best skiers were rewarded by the appropriate USSA and FIS points (i.e. the points system was not skewed due to too easy courses).

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

A re-write of the FIS Competition Rules would be published this summer. The committee would organize a seminar in the fall to communicate, interpret and distribute the new rules. The committee also recommended that USSA not alter the FIS rules in any way in the USSA Competition Rules (book), but rather make a separate section explaining national rules issues.

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

Ten (10) USSA TD's attended last fall's International FIS TD seminar in Calgary, Canada last fall. These TD's were being given priority for US TD assignments. A National Seminar was held at Soldier Hollow in connection with the SuperTour in December, 2003.

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

The committee expressed a wish that the location of the National Officials' seminar be rotated around the country, and not held at Soldier Hollow every year. This year's National Officials' Seminar would be held in Lake Placid at the Olympic Training Center on a weekend from mid-September – mid-October (exact date TBD). This would be open to TD and Race Organizers, and would cover

- Review of the new FIS rules and rulebook
- homologation
- special grooming issues (track setting for mass-starts and sprints, use of chemicals etc.)

12. Appointments of TDs for National Calendar

(Closed Session - TD Assignment Working Group) Submitted as separate attachment from Scott Wilson

Coaches' Subcommittee - May 21, 9:15am – 6:00pm

Chair: Rick Kapala

1. Presentation of Subcommittee Members

The Chair of the Subcommittee, Mr. Kapala, **presented** the members of the subcommittee:

- Luke Bodensteiner
- Joey Caterinichio
- Pat Cote
- Jon Engen
- Andy Gerlach
- Gary Giberson
- Chris Grover
- Chris Klein
- Reid Lutter
- Bill Sterling
- Kevin Sweeney

2. Discuss Selection of Regional Elite Group Camps & U.S. Ski Team Coach Participation

Mr. Kapala stated that the development coaching staff had reduced their commitment to making themselves available for Regional Elite Group camps during the summer, reducing their participation from five camps to three in the coming year. He stated that this was a reaction to a lack of interest in some regions, where not all best athletes and coaches were in attendance.

Mr. Bodensteiner noted that this was also a manpower issue, and through this reduction they were also able to reduce the amount of travel for the coaching staff by approximately 10 days.

Mr. Grover stated that all regions had made a proposal to be selected, and that he selected Pacific, Mountain and East as the camps at which development staff would be present. He stated that the REG program was an important program for him, but that he also needed to feel that this was an important program for the regions, who could show the project's importance by bringing all of the top athletes and coaches together.

Ms. Caterinichio asked if the REG program should continue in terms of regions nominating teams. Mr. Grover responded that it should continue, and should continue to gain importance in each region.

3. Review Junior Scandinavian Cup Selection Methods

Mr. Kapala presented the criteria, which was distributed to the subcommittee members in advance of the meeting, and stated that no changes were proposed to the selection system in place. He stated that there had been a request to examine a system of pre-qualification for this team, and he polled the members to see if anyone wanted to examine that concept. Hearing no interest, he stated that pre-qualification was not appropriate for athletes of this age, and that coaches' discretion did exist within the criteria to deal with unforeseen circumstances.

Mr. Sterling made a motion to accept the selection criteria as presented, seconded by Mr. Engen.

Motion carries.

Mr. Kapala informed the members that Reid Lutter had made a proposal to require the divisions to collect an additional \$25 fee from each of their JO competitors, the sum of which would be administered by NCCSEF to help to fund the Junior Scandinavian Cup.

Mr. Sterling stated that divisions could instead be encouraged to pay for a percentage of coaches' expenses for the competition, corresponding to the percentage of team members originating from their division. Mr. Fjeldheim stated that divisions should be allowed to send a coach on the trip, at the division's expense, as a coaches' education opportunity.

After thorough discussion, Mr. Sterling made a motion to reject the proposal, to direct Mr. Lutter to communicate with the leadership of each division and to work out a plan with each divisional organization to find a way to fund the expenses of the competition. Seconded by Mr. Cote.

Motion carries.

4. Junior World Championship Selection Methods

Mr. Kapala presented the criteria, which were distributed to the subcommittee members in advance of the meeting. He stated that, since the Junior World Championship would take place in the end of March this year, a change was proposed to extend the SuperTour selection process from its normal date at the end of December to February 13. He stated that this would allow those competitors who

were skiing well later into the season to still qualify for the team later in the season. He stated that this was not a change to the selection systems, only to the date of the team selection itself, and that this was being proposed as a one year-only change.

Ms. Caterinichio stated that the number of athletes selected at the National Championships should be fixed. Mr. Grover stated that athletes would be selected according to the proposed criteria, if the criteria were accepted.

After thorough and adequate discussion, Mr. Bodensteiner made a motion to accept the proposed selection criteria and was seconded by Mr. Engen.

Motion carries (one dissenting vote cast by Ms. Caterinichio).

5. Requirement of Wax Cabins at the Junior Olympics

Mr. Kapala stated that the Executive Committee, at their last meeting in December, requested that the Junior Working Group make a recommendation to the Cross Country Committee regarding the required specifications for team waxing facilities during the Junior Olympics. He stated that currently, there was no standard, and in practice, the facilities ranged from team trailers to sub-standard tents.

It was recognized by the members that a wide variety of suitable arrangements exist, and it was therefore **decided** that each site bidding for the Junior Olympics in the future must detail their plan for team waxing facilities in the bid presentation, which would be reviewed by the members of the Junior Working Group.

Additionally, it was **decided** that Soldier Hollow, the host site in 2007, would be required to detail their plan for wax facilities by Jan. 1, 2005 to the Junior Working Group.

6. Proposed Changes to Junior Olympic Rule 70.1.4

Mr. Kapala explained that the Midwest District had made a request to the Junior Working Group at their annual meeting to reduce the number of athletes who could qualify from the Central region through this rule. He stated that, a year ago, the central collegiate coaches had requested that their quota be increased from 10 to 20. He asked Ms. Caterinichio to report on the opinion of the Junior Committee.

Ms. Caterinichio reported that the working group assigned with looking at this issue did not make a clear recommendation, but suggested that the right system would be to select the top-5 U.S. juniors from each NCAA region, and made a motion to change rule 70.1.4 to read "The top-5 U.S. junior skiers on the final NCAA East, NCAA West, or NCAA Central ranking lists were automatically qualified to enter JOC as a part of the team from their home division, but were not counted against their Division's or District's quota specified in rule 074." This proposal was seconded by Mr. Giberson.

Motion carries.

7. Rule Allowing Best 20 Skiers from the Nordic Combined Jr. World Trials to Enter JOs

Ms. Caterinichio made a motion that, based on the experiences of this year's Junior Olympics, the top-10 Nordic combined skiers from their Junior Olympics be allowed to enter, therefore changing rule 70.1.5 to read "Members of the World Junior Championship Team in Biathlon and those skiers finishing in the top-10 of the nordic combined Junior World Trials were automatically qualified to enter

JOC as a part of their home division, but were not counted against their Division's or District's quota specified in rule 074". Her motion was seconded by Mr. Engen.

Motion carries.

8. Modifications to the JO Competition Program

Mr. Kapala explained that the Junior Working Group had looked extensively at the JO competition program moving forward, and was ready to make a proposal to incorporate classic technique sprints, pursuit and mass-start competitions.

Mr. Clark stated that, with the discussions to format changes, the JO 2005 organizing committee had begun to discuss a single-technique relay as a segue into future program changes. He stated that they were fully prepared to host a mixed technique relay, but that they believed they could host a better competition if the relay was held in one technique.

Mr. Kapala made a motion to change the relay format for the 2005 Junior Olympics to three person teams, held in the classic technique, and was seconded by Mr. Bodensteiner.

Motion carries.

Mr. Bodensteiner stated that, with a proposal to alternate mass-start and pursuit competitions, that single and mixed technique relays could also be alternated. He stated that venues ready to host pursuit events, which require tracks for both classic and freestyle, would also be ready to host mixed technique relays, and that venues hosting mass-start competitions would only use dual-technique courses for the mixed relays.

After much discussion regarding 3 versus 4 person relay teams, and single versus mixed technique relays, Mr. Cote made a motion to host single technique relays with three person teams when sites were required to host a mass-start competition, and that 4-person mixed technique relays would be held at sites required to host a pursuit. The single technique relay would be held in the opposite technique of the sprint competition. Seconded by Mr. Gerlach.

Motion carries (dissenting votes by Mr. Kapala and Ms. Caterinichio).

Mr. Kapala presented the proposed change to the JO competition program, through 2011, as follows:

2006

Sprint C

Interval start F (5km for J2s and women, 10km for men)

Mass-start C (5km J2, 10km JI and OJ women, 15km JI and OJ men)

Relay (FFF)

2007

Sprint C

Interval Start F

Pursuit (3+3km J2, 5+5km JI and OJ women, 7.5+7.5km JI and OJ men)

Relay

2008

Sprint F

Interval C

Mass-start F

Relay

2009

Sprint F
Interval C
Pursuit
Relay

2010

Sprint C
Interval F
Mass-start C
Relay

2011

Sprint C
Interval F
Pursuit
Relay

Mr. Cote made a motion to accept the proposed program, and was seconded by Mr. Klein.

Motion accepted.

Mr. Kapala initiated discussion regarding combination of age classes.

Based on the discussions, Ms. Caterinichio made a motion to combine the JI and OJ classes, for starting purposes only, if fewer than 24 competitors were entered in one of the classes. This motion was seconded by Mr. Gerlach.

Motion accepted.

Mr. Sterling made a motion to change rule 83.3.1 to read "In individual events, the JI/OJ skiers would be drawn and seeded as one combined class. For mass-start and pursuit competitions, the start order would be based on the NRL, and according to rule 78.4". This motion was seconded by Mr. Giberson.

Motion accepted.

Mr. Sterling made a motion to seed the J2 classes for the mass-start and pursuit events in the same way as in the individual start race, by placing the skiers into 4 seeds, which were drawn at random, and was seconded by Mr. Cote.

Motion accepted.

Mr. Sterling made a motion to eliminate guest class skiers from the Quarterfinals of the Sprint, but to allow them to ski in the qualification, and seconded by Ms. Caterinichio.

Motion defeated.

Mr. Kapala made a motion to amend rule 83.3.10 to read "Any competitor who finishes in the top-10 of their respective class in the individual start event would also be seeded immediately behind the Red Group for the mass-start and pursuit competition, ranked in order of their NRL points." This motion was seconded by Mr. Giberson

Motion accepted.

Mr. Kapala made a motion to delineate JI and OJ bibs (if classes were combined) in mass-start, pursuit and relay competitions, and was seconded by Mr. Gerlach.

Motion accepted.

9. Junior Olympic Bid Selection, 2006

Mr. Kapala explained the bid process, the results of the Junior Working Group meeting in Lake Placid, and explained that he had been contacted by the Chairman of the Jumping Committee, who had requested that the event be awarded to Mount Itasca, so that the Jumping and Cross Country Championships could both be held at the same time. He also presented updated bid information from the bid committee of Mount Itasca, including maps for their trail expansion.

Mr. Giberson stated that Houghton had all of the issues nailed at the presentation to the Junior Working Group, and that they had seemed to do better advance planning.

In response to questions regarding Mount Itasca's ability to host the event according to the plans submitted in their bid, Mr. Wilson stated that both sites would be highly capable of hosting the event.

Mr. Kapala stated that the process in place required sites to perform against a timeline, and in his opinion, Mount Itasca had failed to do so and Houghton had done excellent work in their preparations even before the meeting in Lake Placid. He stated that the tough part about the decision was that Mount Itasca had done great things for the sport, in terms of hosting SuperTour events.

Mr. Jobe stated that the Junior Committee had heard all they needed to hear in Lake Placid already to make a decision then.

Ms. Caterinichio made a motion to award the 2006 Junior Olympics to Houghton, MI, and was seconded by Mr. Giberson.

Motion carries.

10. Confirmation of the 2007 Junior Olympic Bid

Mr. Kapala stated that Soldier Hollow was a site of very high quality, but that they were still required to produce their event plan for the Junior Working Group for the next meeting in Truckee, CA.

Ms. Caterinichio made a motion to award the 2007 Junior Olympics to Soldier Hollow, UT, and was seconded by Mr. Sterling.

Motion carries.

11. Review of Results from a SuperTour Survey

Results of the survey were presented to the members for their information; after thorough discussion, it was **decided** that the maximum entry fee would only apply to USSA members, and that there could be some flexibility in the guideline for specific sites, as in the case of the distance race in Minneapolis.

13. Review of National Calendar

Mr. Kapala presented the National Calendar:

CALENDAR DRAFT - 2005

Date	Location	Comments
Feb. 6-7	Fairbanks, AK	NRL/FIS Sprint F Pursuit
Feb. 13-14	Anchorage, AK	NRL/FIS Sprint F 5/10km F
Nov. 26-27	West Yellowstone, MT	SuperTour 10/15km C, Sprint F
Dec. 8	Soldier Hollow, UT	100m Record Attempt (non-scored)
Dec. 11, 12, 15, 18, 19	Soldier Hollow, UT	SuperTour 5/10km C, Sprint C, 7.5+7.5/15+15km Pursuit, 10/15km F, Team Sprint F
Dec. 18-19	Ironwood, MI	NRL 5/5km C 5/10km F
Dec. 18-19	Alaska TBD	NRL TBD
Dec. 29-30	Presque Isle, ME	SuperTour 10/10km F, Sprint C
Jan. 3-10 <i>Mon. thru Mon.</i>	TBD	U.S. Nationals – SuperTour Day 1: 15/30km F Day 3: 5/10km C Day 4: 5/10km F Day 6: Sprint C Day 8: 15/30km Pursuit
Jan. 8-9	Bend, OR	NRL TBD
Jan. 14-15	Jackson, WY	NRL/FIS 5/10km C 10/15km F mass-start
Jan. 16	Madison, WI	SuperTour Sprint C
Jan. 22-23	Mt. Itasca, MN	SuperTour 10/10km F, 5/10km C
Jan. 22-23	Soldier Hollow, UT	NRL Sprint C 5/10/15km F mass-start
Jan. 22-23	AK TBD	NRL TBD
Jan. 26, 29, 30	Telemark, WI	SuperTour Sprint F, 10/10km C, 10/15km F mass-start
Jan. 28-29	Winter Park, CO	NRL/FIS 5/10km F 10/15km C mass-start
Feb. 5-6	Minneapolis, MN	SuperTour Sprint F 30/30km F Mass-start

Date	Location	Comments
Feb. 4-5	Stowe, VT	NRL/FIS 5/10km C 10/20km F mass-start
Feb. 5-6	West Yellowstone, MT	NRL 5/10kmF 5/10km C
Feb. 5-6	AK TBD	NRL TBD
Feb. 11	Hanover, NH	NRL 5/10km C
Feb. 11-12	Red River, NM	NRL/FIS 5/10km C 5/10km F
Feb. 12	Aspen, CO	SuperTour 30/30km F mass-start
Feb. 12-13	St. Cloud, MN	NRL 10/15km F mass-start 5/10km C
Feb. 12-13	Leavenworth, WA	NRL TBD
Feb. 16-27	Oberstdorf, GER	World Ski Championships
Feb. 19-20	Sun Valley, ID	NRL 5/10km F 5/5km C
Feb. 19-20	Houghton, MI	NRL 5/10km C 10/15km F mass-start
Feb. 26	Hayward, WI	American Birkebeiner FIS Marathon Cup 52km F
Mar. 9-12	Stowe, VT	NCAA Championships 5/10km F, 15/20km C Mass-start
Mar. 12-13	Bolton Valley, VT	NRL 10/10km F 15/30km C
Mar. 5-6	Europe/Scandinavia	OPA/Scando Cup
Mar. 7-12	Soda Springs, CA	Jos
Mar. 12-13	Europe/Scandinavia	OPA/Scando Cup
Mar. 10-12	Stowe, VT	NCAA Championship/FIS 5/10km C 10/20km F mass-start
Mar. 21-27	Rovaniemi, FIN	Junior World Championships/U23 Champs??
Mar. 26-Apr. 2	Winter Park, CO	International Spring Series Sprint F 5/10km F 5+5/7.5/7.5km Pursuit 10/15km C Mass-start National Sprint Relay C

2006

Date	Location	Comments
Nov. 5-6	Fairbanks, AK	SuperTour Opener 5+5/7.5+7.5km Pursuit/SprintF
Nov. 12-13	Anchorage, AK	SuperTour 5/10km C, 5/10km F
Nov. 25-26	West Yellowstone, MT	SuperTour 10/15km F, Sprint C
Dec. 8	Soldier Hollow, UT	100m Record Attempt (non-scored)
Dec. 10, 11, 14, 17, 18	Soldier Hollow, UT	SuperTour 5/10km C, Sprint F, 7.5+7.5/15+15km Pursuit, 10/15km F, Team Sprint C
Dec. 31-Jan. 1	Presque Isle, ME	SuperTour 10/10km F, Sprint C
Jan. 3-11 Tues-Wed.	West USA	U.S. Nationals – SuperTour Day 1: 15/30km C Day 3: 5/10km C Day 4: 5/10km F Day 6: Sprint F Day 9: 15/30km Pursuit
Jan. 15	TBD	SuperTour Sprint C
Jan. 21, 22	TBD	SuperTour 5/10km F, 10/15km C mass-start
Jan. 25, 28, 29	Telemark, WI	SuperTour Sprint C, 5/10km C, 10/15km F mass-start
Feb. 4-5	Minneapolis	SuperTour Sprint F 30/30km F mass-start
Feb. 11	TBD	30/30km F mass-start
TBD	Kranj, SLO	World Junior Championships/ U-23 Championships??
Feb. 10-26	Torino, ITA	Olympic Games
	Europe/Scandinavia	OPA/Scando-Cup
Feb. 25	Hayward, WI	American Birkebeiner 52km F
	Europe/Scandinavia	OPA/Scando-Cup
	Europe/Scandinavia	OPA/Scando Cup
Mar. 8-11	CU	NCAA Championships 5/10km F, 15/20km C Mass-start
	Europe/Scandinavia	OPA/Scando Cup
Mar. 6-11	Houghton, MI	JOs
Mar. TBD	TBD	50/50km F mass-start
Mar. 25-31	TBD	International Spring Series Sprint C 5/10km F 7.5+7.5/15+15km Pursuit 10/15km C Mass-start National Sprint Relay F

2007

Date	Location	Comments
Nov. 4-5	TBD	SuperTour Opener 5+5/7.5+7.5km Pursuit/SprintF
Nov. 11-12	TBD	SuperTour 5/10km C, 5/10km F
Nov. 24-25	TBD	SuperTour 10/15km F, Sprint C
Dec. 1	TBD	100m Record Attempt (non-scored)
Dec. 9, 10, 13, 16, 17	TBD	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. 6-14 Sat.-Sun.	TBD	U.S. Nationals – SuperTour Day 1: 15/30km F Day 3: 5/10km C Day 4: 5/10km F Day 6: Sprint C Day 9: 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

13. Minimum Penalties

Mr. Kapala explained that some regions were having trouble with their NRL races when skiers without points compete and finish in the top-5 with no USSA points, meaning that 990 is then used in the penalty calculation, which drastically inflated the points for the event.

Mr. Cote made a motion to use 200 for men and 250 for women as the assigned penalty calculation points, replacing the 990 currently in place. This motion was seconded by Mr. Sterling.

Motion carries.

Mr. Bodensteiner made a motion to increase the minimum penalty for regional NRL races to 50.00, and was seconded by Mr. Cote.

Motion carries.

Mr. Bodensteiner made a motion to eliminate the minimum penalty for the Junior Olympics, and was seconded by Mr. Cote.

Motion carries.

14. Addition of City Sprints in Minneapolis and Madison

Mr. Bodensteiner presented the plans for the sprint in Minneapolis, which included the possibility of running the qualification race one day ahead of the finals on a separate course, and running the event on a short and completely flat course. He asked for feedback from the members, and especially from the athlete representative.

Hearing the feedback, it was **decided** that the Subcommittee would express its preference that the qualification take place on the same day as the Finals, although it could also take place a day in advance and on a different course than the finals. It was also **decided** that if the 30km mass-start took place on the normal course, that it would be scored, but that if it was moved to a backup course on a lake, the Jury might decide not to score the event.

At the suggestion of Mr. Klein, it was **decided** that the preference for the qualification course was to have good terrain in it, in order to make a better spread of the points in the spring finals.

Mr. Gusev gave a report on the preparations for the sprint race in Madison.

15. Addition of Team Sprints to the SuperTour – Scoring to the NRL and SuperTour Ranking

Mr. Bodensteiner made a motion that, with the inclusion of the Team Sprint in the SuperTour, these events be scored to the NRL by using a calculation similar to the mass-start calculation, and awarding both team members equal points, whereby both members of the winning team would score the same number of points as the race penalty. Mr. Engen seconded the motion.

Motion carries.

Mr. Kapala **assigned** the task of finalizing the calculation for Team Sprints to Mr. Cote and Mr. Bodensteiner, and asked them to inform the Subcommittee of their decision.

Mr. Bodensteiner made a motion to score Team Sprint events to the SuperTour Overall lists, with both team members of the winning team receiving 30 points, both second-place team members receiving 25 points, etc. according to the normal SuperTour points. Seconded by Mr. Klein.

Motion carries.

Mr. Bodensteiner made a motion to fix the minimum penalty for SuperTour Team Sprint races, for the SuperTour sprint in Minneapolis, and for the International Spring Series at 40.00 points, as a way to ensure that those events wouldn't drastically affect the NRL next season. Seconded by Mr. Sterling.

Motion carries.

16. Spring Series to Become SuperTour Finals?

Mr. Bodensteiner informed the Subcommittee that the organizers of the International Spring Series were planning to let him know by June 1 whether or not they would include 2-3 Spring Series competitions in the SuperTour as the Finals. No objections were registered.

17. Awarding of Double Points for SuperTour Finals?

Mr. Bodensteiner asked the members to discuss the proposal of awarding double SuperTour points at the SuperTour Finals to make the last part of the season most important. Generally, there was no interest in the proposal, but Mr. Gerlach suggested that double SuperTour points be awarded at all National Championship races to increase the importance of the Championships.

Mr. Gerlach made a motion to double SuperTour points to be awarded at all National Championship races, and was seconded by Mr. Sterling.

Motion carries.

18. Addition of Pursuit to the U.S. Cross Country Championships

Mr. Klein made a motion to replace the 30/50km event at the U.S. Cross Country Championships in January with a Pursuit (Duathlon) event, and was seconded by Mr. Gerlach.

Motion carries.

Mr. Gerlach made a motion to host a men's and women's 50km national championship in the month of March, at a site determined by the Nordic Director, and was seconded by Mr. Sterling.

Mr. Klein stated his support for the motion, but he was in favor of the women skiing 30km, not 50km.

Motion carries.

19. Classic Sprint at U.S. Cross Country Championships

Mr. Bodensteiner stated that there was a desire to host the national championship sprint event in classic for the first time ever next season, since the sprint at the World Championships would be in classic. He stated that, depending on the decisions for the Junior World Championship program, this could mean a classic sprint was being used to select a team for freestyle sprinting at the Jr. Worlds.

Mr. Engen made a motion to hold the national championship sprint in classic technique this season, and was seconded by Mr. Klein.

Motion carries.

Cross Country Committee - May 22, 9:45am-11:00am

Mr. Todd reconvened the Cross Country Committee noting the same members present, and declared a quorum. He turned the floor to Mr. Aalberg, Chairman of the Officials Subcommittee for his report.

1. Proposals from Officials Subcommittee

Mr. Aalberg reported that the Subcommittee discussed extensively event management issues related to the top-level events. He stated that the Subcommittee recommended that USSA purchase a high-speed video finish camera and transponder timing chips for use at national-level events.

He stated that the Subcommittee recommended that the Jury at the U.S. Cross Country Championships review the top-15 finishers in each event, and use their discretion in moving athletes finishing in the top-15 into the red group for subsequent races, if they weren't already seeded there.

He stated that NRL race organizers were required to pay expenses for the TD plus a \$50 per day fee, and accommodation for the assistant TD.

He reported on the assignments of the Technical Delegates for the 2005 season. He also reported that the National TD seminar would take place in Lake Placid this year, and that he would follow up at a later date with specific information.

The report ended, Mr. Todd asked Mr. Kapala, Chair of the Coaches' Subcommittee, for his report.

2. Proposals from Coaches' Subcommittee

Mr. Kapala made a motion to accept the Junior World Championship selection criteria as approved by the Subcommittee, and was seconded by Mr. Bodensteiner.

Motion approved (Ms. Caterinichio cast a dissenting vote).

Mr. Kapala made a motion to change the relay format for the 2005 Junior Olympics to three person teams, held in the classic technique, and was seconded by Mr. Bodensteiner.

Motion carries.

Mr. Kapala made a motion to change rule 70.1.4 to read "The top-5 U.S. junior skiers on the final NCAA East, NCAA West, or NCAA Central ranking lists were automatically qualified to enter JOC as a part of the team from their home division, but were not counted against their Division's or District's quota specified in rule 074." This proposal was seconded by Mr. Bodensteiner.

Motion carries.

Mr. Kapala made a motion to change rule 70.1.5 to read "Members of the World Junior Championship Team in Biathlon and those skiers finishing in the top-10 of the nordic combined Junior World Trials were automatically qualified to enter JOC as a part of their home division, but were not counted against their Division's or District's quota specified in rule 074". Seconded by Mr. Bodensteiner.

Motion carries.

Mr. Sterling made a motion to host single technique relays with three person teams when sites were required to host a mass-start competition, and that 4-person mixed technique relays would be held at sites required to host a pursuit. The single technique relay would be held in the opposite technique of the sprint competition. He was seconded by Mr. Bodensteiner.

Motion carries.

Mr. Sterling made a motion to change to the JO competition program, as approved by the Subcommittee, and was seconded by Mr. Bodensteiner.

Motion carries.

Mr. Kapala made a motion to combine the JI and OJ classes, for starting purposes only, if fewer than 24 competitors were entered in one of the classes. This motion was seconded by Mr. Gerlach.

Motion carries.

Mr. Sterling made a motion to change rule 83.3.1 to read "In individual events, the JI/OJ skiers would be drawn and seeded as one combined class. For mass-start and pursuit competitions, the start order would be based on the NRL, and according to rule 78.4". Seconded by Mr. Giberson.

Motion carries.

Mr. Sterling made a motion to seed the J2 classes for the mass-start and pursuit events in the same way as in the individual start race, by placing the skiers into 4 seeds, which were drawn at random, and was seconded by Mr. Cote.

Motion carries.

Mr. Kapala made a motion to amend rule 83.3.10 to read "Any competitor who finishes in the top-10 of their respective class in the individual start event would also be seeded immediately behind the Red Group for the mass-start and pursuit competition, ranked in order of their NRL points." Mr. Gerlach seconded this motion.

Motion carries.

Mr. Kapala made a motion to delineate JI and OJ bibs (if classes were combined) in mass-start, pursuit and relay competitions, and was seconded by Mr. Gerlach.

Motion carries.

Mr. Kapala made a motion awarding the 2006 Junior Olympics to Houghton, MI, seconded by Mr. Gerlach.

Motion carries.

Mr. Kapala made a motion awarding the 2007 Junior Olympics to Soldier Hollow, UT, seconded by Mr. Gerlach.

Motion carries.

Mr. Kapala made a motion to use 200 for men and 250 for women as the assigned penalty calculation points, replacing the 990 that is currently in place. Mr. Gerlach seconded this motion.

Motion carries.

Mr. Kapala made a motion to increase the minimum penalty for regional NRL races to 50.00, and was seconded by Mr. Grover.

Motion carries.

Mr. Kapala made a motion to eliminate the minimum penalty for the Junior Olympics, and was seconded by Mr. Klein.

Motion carries.

Mr. Bodensteiner made a motion that, with the inclusion of the Team Sprint in the SuperTour, these events be scored to the NRL by using a calculation similar to the mass-start calculation, and awarding both team members equal points, whereby both members of the winning team would score the same number of points as the race penalty. Mr. Gerlach seconded the motion.

Motion carries.

Mr. Bodensteiner made a motion to score Team Sprint events to the SuperTour Overall lists, with both team members of the winning team receiving 30 points, both second-place team members receiving 25 points, etc. according to the normal SuperTour points. Mr. Klein seconded this motion.

Motion carries.

Mr. Bodensteiner made a motion to fix the minimum penalty for SuperTour Team Sprint races, for the SuperTour sprint in Minneapolis, and for the International Spring Series at 40.00 points, as a way to ensure that those events don't drastically affect the NRL next season. Seconded by Mr. Sterling.

Motion carries.

Mr. Kapala made a motion to double SuperTour points be awarded at all National Championship races, and was seconded by Mr. Gerlach.

Motion carries.

Mr. Kapala made a motion to replace the 30/50km event at the U.S. Cross Country Championships in January with a Pursuit (Duathlon) event, and was seconded by Mr. Gerlach.

Motion carries.

Mr. Kapala made a motion to host a men's and women's 50km national championship in the month of March, at a site determined by the Nordic Director, and was seconded by Mr. Gerlach.

Motion carries.

Mr. Engen made a motion to hold the national championship sprint in classic technique this season, and was seconded by Mr. Klein.

Motion carries.

Mr. Gerlach made a motion to institute a national rollerski championship, based on the following conditions; conduct the event by FIS rollerski rules, require USSA membership from all competitors, pay at least one half of the prize money paid at the winter nationals, provide complimentary lodging for U.S. Ski Team members, provide support for Jury expenses. Mr. Bodensteiner seconded this motion.

Motion carries.

3. Next Meeting

Mr. Todd stated that the next meeting of the USSA Cross Country Committee would take place during the USSA Congress, May 2005 in Park City, UT, and that the Executive Committee would meet in the interim, during the U.S. Cross Country Championships at Soldier Hollow, UT.