

USSA SKI JUMPING/NORDIC COMBINED SPORT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 22, 2004

May 22 8:15 am – 3:00 pm

1. Call to Order

Alan Johnson, Chairman of the Ski Jumping/Nordic Combined Committee opened the meeting by thanking the members for their attendance, and their leadership.

2. Roll Call

Mr. Johnson recognized the following Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined Committee members were recognized as being present:

Alan Johnson (Chairman)	Term limit: Spring '05
Chuck Heckert (Divisional Representative)	Term limit: Spring '04
Larry Stone (Athlete Programs)	Term limit: Spring '04
Matt Laue (Athlete)	Term limit: Spring '04
Jim Holland (Athlete)	Term limit: Spring '04
Corby Fisher (Jumping Head Coach)	Term limit: by employment
Art Tokle (Officials)	Term limit: Spring '04

Mr. Johnson recognized the following Committee members as absent:

Greg Boester (Athlete)	Term limit: Spring '05
Greg Lunde (Calendar)	Term limit: Spring '04
Bard Elden (Combined Head Coach)	Term limit: by employment

3. Additions to the Agenda

Mr. Johnson noted that the agenda had been sent to the Committee members on April 18 for their approval.

Mr. Stone requested in writing that a report from the Head Coaches be added to the agenda. Mr. Johnson indicated that Mr. Elden was excused from the meeting due to a personal commitment, but that Mr. Fisher would report on the jumping program.

Mr. Stone also requested in writing a discussion clarifying whether or not Junior Olympic qualifying events must be USSA sanctioned events, and Mr. Johnson **indicated** that they must, and that no further discussion needed to take place.

4. Approval of Minutes, Spring Congress '02

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

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

Motion carries.

5. Team Update – Ski Jumping

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

Mr. Fisher welcomed the members and stated that there was a new look in this year's jumping team, and that he was really excited to get the USA where we know it could be, with American athletes and American coaches and community. He thanked the members for coming out to the annual meeting and playing a big part in the plan as we moved towards the future. He stated that he had seen this sport from many angles over the years, as an athlete, coaching with the clubs, and N/C team, and had a clear vision of where we could go, and how to get there. He stated that, the team was starting coming off a season with few results, which was reflected in the budget, but with some belief, creativity, and teamwork, the athletes could get to the top.

He stated that, on the World Cup team, we had Clint Jones as well as Alan Alborn returning from an early retirement. He stated his excitement to have Alan back, as now we had two athletes with World Cup experience and results.

He stated that he had named a self-funded, 4-member Development team, Chris Francis, Anders Johnson, Kyle Kessler, and Blake Hughes, stating his opinion that it essential to get these athletes back to their peer level worldwide. He stated that he had been working with these 6 athletes already this spring and the progress was already great; attitude, understanding, and commitment.

He stated that he was creating a partnership with the clubs with a national training group of the "young seniors," to ensure they get everything they need to succeed. In this group were some female jumpers that he still felt had not reached their potential, and that he would be working with all of these athletes and coaches, providing them insight to our program, and allowing them to show their true potential.

He stated that ski jumping was a highly contested field, world wide, and we had a long way to go, but with the right support, belief, teamwork, and communication, we could get the USA on top.

He stated that the overall goal of this year was rebuilding and reestablishing, working towards being ready in Torino, February 2006, for the next Winter Olympic Games. He stated that the athletes needed to believe in what they were committing their lives to, and understand how to maximize that dedication, through a great system and program. He stated that we would use everything we had learned over the past 10 years, and build on that, using better communication and articulation to the top level of elite ski jumping to our American athletes.

He stated that the goal of this year would be to gain confidence and pride in American ski jumping, and that this would be accomplished through an individual competition management system, where each athlete's competition schedule was aligned with their; goals, ability/current level, and calendar timing. He stated his desire to have each athlete fully ready to win, when they put that bib on, no matter what level, when they saw that the system works, what they were doing in training worked in comp, it could be taken to the very top.

He stated that we all need to share the goal of creating the highest "level" in our country, and that he had plans to help bring the freshest info back from all aspects of European jumping.

He stated that he was pushing qualifications back to the late fall, to show all the athletes, whether on the A team or in the club, that they had all summer to make the appropriate changes. He stated that the team would provide the guidelines for all aspects of becoming a winning ski jumper, and work with the clubs to get those ideas out. He stated that the process had already been started with individual meetings with each athlete and their respective coaches, to present a marker program, and to get each athlete on track for their goals.

He stated that with a full summer season with this fresh perspective, we would then have some qualifications in October for our early winter Period I COCJ trip.

He stated that from there we would enter the winter competition season. Athletes ready to go compete (win), would be provided the opportunity to go represent the USA, with goals at each level, with the primary goal being to be ready to win medals at the 2006 Winter Olympic Games, and to have a continuous feed of jumpers doing the right things, at their level, to eventually succeed at the highest level.

He stated that, regarding the development team, that particular team was named because they were the closest to the international peer level, having been on par with it a few years ago. He stated that this group had the need and opportunity to benefit the most from a consistent training environment, with the goal being to have this group be competitive at their level (Jr Worlds, Alpen Cup, COCJ) and from there building to being 100% ready as we approach the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

He stated that, regarding the World Championships, he has budgeted for our two top athletes, but we had the opportunity to bring more, if we saw the potential.

He stated that, regarding women, he was excited to see the level of women rising internationally, as well as gaining acceptance. He stated that, personally, he had always been a supporter of women's jumping, and hoped we could work together to bring this movement forward. As soon as the FIS and thereafter USSA bring it on board, he stated that there was a plan to help that team that included involving them in our Development team. He stated that we had the same goals for them in the future, doing the right things now, so they were fully ready in 2010.

He stated his desire to have the correct programming at every level of ski jumping throughout the country, and to have this 'pipeline' information available to everyone, and to have it be with input from all regions, but with assistance from the U.S. Ski Team, fortified with coaches education information and feedback. He stated that he would organize the first official "coaches' education/discussion" at Park City's annual summer Springertourne, where the U.S. Ski team, coaches and athletes, would present what they were working on.

He stated that he planned to address the "young senior" group, with support through the partnership with the club program, as well as individual communication with a goal of having a better overall picture of American ski jumping by next spring's meeting, results to justify more U.S. Ski Team support, and for, clubs, regions, and the jumping community to feel pride in the U.S. Ski Team.

He stated that, regarding the annual plan, the focus was on residence in Park City where we had all general tools to make these guys the best in the world including;

- Jumping 5 days per week, around 750 – with the emphasis on making
The correct technical changes a permanent part of their jumping.
- Specific technique blocks, with a step by step build, culminating in the fall.
- Utilizing all hills, with specific technique goals.
- Making sure all the training ties into better ski jumping
- Physically, 5 sessions per week + technique
 - general concept of becoming better athletes, healthy, extra-fit, indi, etc.
- Sports science dept – staff to address all aspects; physical training - weights
and plyos, diet and nutrition, sports psych, through testing
- Comps; - SuperTours – LP, PC
 - SuGP – A team, exposure to Euro peers, motivation
 - Fall weekly comps; informal comps every weekend, once ready....
 - Winter comps; - World Cup- when 100% level; jump, phys, mental, etc.
 - COCJ – 1st per and domestic – goal to WIN in USA..

- World Juniors – boys and girls (FIS Congress)
- SuperTour – great series
- NA Jrs. – great concept, needs more teeth
- JO's – make it fun, reward correct technique!

He stated that it was his vision that the Head Coach should have a great overall view of Ski Jumping, in Europe as well as back home in America. He stated his desire to know how things were going back here, at every level, as well as all over the world, and that he would be traveling with the World Cup team, as well as the Development Team. He stated that he would hire an assistant coach, mainly for the winter season, who helped out with the competition travel, and who would help with competitions for both the World Cup and Development teams, and would need to plug in with our team philosophy and operations. Due to the small budget, he stated that all needed to be creative.

He stated that it was one of his main domestic goals to get the pipeline corrected, so the same techniques that would get an athlete to the U.S. Ski Team, would be continued to get them to win at the highest level.

He stated that the overall goal was to raise the level of ski jumping in the U.S., and that this could be achieved by teamwork, communication, and belief, and by making sure that each jumper was doing the right thing, at the right age, to get on par, then ahead of their peers worldwide. He hoped that everyone believed in this movement, had input, and ultimately felt ownership and pride in our US Ski Team.

Finally, he thanked all of the host sites for the competitions, especially the SuperTour, Continental Cups, and Nationals, stating that it was a huge benefit to our plan of developing a pipeline in our country, 'the more we could support that, the better all of our chances of success.'

**May 22 9:15 am – 3:00 pm
Officials' Subcommittee**

1. FIS ICR New Guidelines

A report was delivered by the Chairman.

2. Ski Jumping Engineering Report

Blair Tomten (Central) was added to the Ski Jump Engineering Working Group as an apprentice.

3. TD and Judges Assignments 2005

A report was delivered by the Chairman.

4. Selection of Chairman for the 2005 and 2006 seasons.

According to the process indicated in the Ski Jumping Committee Operating Procedures, the members of the Subcommittee select their Chairman upon the expiration of the existing Chairman's term. After thorough and adequate discussion, the members **decided** to re-appoint Mr. Togle as the Chairman for another two-year term.

May 22 9:15 am – 3:00 pm
Athletic Programs and Calendar Planning Subcommittee

1. Junior Olympic Growth Strategies

After a lengthy discussion, no decisions were made. It was noted that organizers could add competitions on smaller hills or for younger ages at their discretion.

2. Review 2005 National Calendar

The final version of the 2005 calendar is presented here:

2005 CALENDAR

Date	Location	Jumping	Nordic Combined	Comments
July 3	Lake Placid	NRL for Jr., Ladies, Senior		SuperTour Ladies' COCJ Trials
July 23-25	Park City, UT	K-120 (SuperTour) K-90 K-64		Ladies' North Am. GP FIS Competition -Men SuperTour (July 24) NRL for Jr., Ladies, Sr
Aug. 19-20	Park City, UT			SpringerTournee NRL for Jrs.
Sept. 19	Fox River Grove, IL			SuperTour NRL for Jr., Ladies
Oct. 2-3	Park City, UT	K-120 (SuperTour/COCJ Qual.) K-90 (COCJ qual.)		SuperTour/COCJ qualifier NRL for Jr., Ladies, Senior
Oct. 9-10	Lake Placid, NY	K-90 (SuperTour/COCJ qual.) K-90 (COCJ qual.)		SuperTour/COCJ Qual. NRL for Jr., Ladies, Sr
Dec. 4	Steamboat Springs, CO	K-114		NRL for Jr., Ladies, Sr
Dec. 10-12	Steamboat Springs, CO	K-90 K-114	Individual Sprint	World Cup B
Dec. 17-18	Lake Placid, NY	K-114 K-90 K-114	Sprint Individual Sprint	World Cup B
Dec. 18	Calgary, CAN	K-89		SuperTour NRL for Jr., Ladies, Sr
Dec. 31- Jan. 1	Lake Placid, NY	K-120 SuperTour K-90		SuperTour NRL for Jr., Senior

Date	Location	Jumping	Nordic Combined	Comments
Jan. 15-16	Brattleboro, VT	NRL for Jr., Ladies, Senior		SuperTour Ladies COCJ Trials
Jan. 20-23	Lake Placid, NY	K-90 K-120	Individual Team	North American Jr. Championships NRL Jr.
Jan. 29	Minneapolis, MN	"Target" Format	Sprint	SuperTour
Feb. 4-5	Eau Claire, WI	K-90 K-90	Sprint	SuperTour/JWC Trials NRL Jr., Ladies, Sr.
Feb. 12-13	Ishpeming, MI	K-90 K-90	Individual	SuperTour/JWC Trials NRL Jr., Senior
Feb. 19-20	Westby, WI	K-120 K-120		COCJ
Feb. 26-27	Iron Mtn., MI	K-120 K-120		COCJ
Mar. 3-6	Steamboat Springs, CO	K-114 K-90		Junior Olympics
Mar. 20	Park City, UT	K-120	Individual	SuperTour Finals NRL Jr./Sr.
Mar. 24-25	Steamboat Springs, CO	K-90 K-120	Sprint	Chevrolet U.S. Nationals NRL Jr., Ladies, Sr.
Mar. 21-27	Rovaneimi, FIN	K-		Junior World Championships

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

- 1st - \$1,200
- 2nd - \$500
- 3rd - \$250
- 4th - \$100
- 1st place Nordic combined - \$200
- 1st place women - \$150

It was **decided** that a competitor's best 9 competitions would be counted toward the overall title.

The proposed rules for a "target format" jump were presented to the members. It was explained that the organizers in Minneapolis would like to join the SuperTour, and that they would like to host a non-traditional format. The rules were reviewed by the Chairman and it was **decided** that he would ask for Board approval of the format.

Furthermore, it was **decided** that a maximum of two Target format competitions per year would be allowed into the SuperTour program.

3. Identification of NRL Competitions

After a thorough discussion of the calendar, the members **appointed** the organizers of National Ranking List competitions for Juniors, Seniors, and Ladies. These events were incorporated into the national calendar.

4. 2006 and 2007 Calendars

It was **decided** that the 2005 calendar would be the basis of planning for 2006 and 2007.

5. Review Junior World Championship Selection Methods – Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined

The selection criteria for the 2005 Junior World Championships was presented by Mr. Bodensteiner, who noted that a criteria for women's ski jumping was also included in the document he presented, which would be valid in the case of a decision by FIS to include a women's class in the World Junior Championships already this year. After a thorough and adequate discussion, which yielded two minor modifications, the criteria were **approved**, the final version of which would be made available on the USSA website.

6. Review Continental Cup and World Cup B Selection Methods

The selection criteria for the 2005 Continental Cup and World Cup B was presented by Mr. Bodensteiner, who noted that a criteria for women's ski jumping was also included in the document he presented, which would be valid in the case of a decision by FIS to include a women's class in the Continental Cup already this year. After a thorough and adequate discussion, which yielded several minor modifications, the criteria was **approved**, the final version of which would be made available on the USSA website.

7. Ski Jumping Education Report

Brainstorming Session

8. Selection of Chairman for the 2005 and 2006

With the expiration of Mr. Stone's term as Chairman, the members thanked him for his service in the preceding years. Mr. Wilson was nominated to serve as the Chairman for at least the next two years, and this nomination was **accepted**.

May 22 3:15 pm – 5:00 pm Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined Committee

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

1. Proposals from the Officials' Subcommittee

Mr. Tokle stated that the Officials' Subcommittee had confirmed during their meeting that FIS rules must be followed during SuperTour events.

He stated that the Subcommittee had made a clear recommendation to USSA staff that the U.S. be represented at all meetings of FIS committees and subcommittees. Mr. Bodensteiner stated that the recommendation was noted, and that he planned to have representation at all subcommittee meetings, as noted by the Subcommittee.

Mr. Tokle explained that the Subcommittee had decided to recommend allowing Canadian competitors to compete as full members of the USSA Junior Olympics, as opposed to competing in the Guest class, which is currently the case. Mr. Heckert made a motion to accept this recommendation, and was seconded by Mr. Laue. After a thorough discussion, the motion was voted upon.

Motion carries.

Mr. Tokle then stated that the new pipeline for officials and corresponding levels of achievement needed to be reflected on the membership cards.

Finally, he reported on the opinion of the Subcommittee that USSA staff use its best efforts to find a way to host the U.S. Championship event in the mid-winter. Mr. Bodensteiner informed the members that it was also the opinion of the coaches that the event should be held in the mid-winter whenever possible, but that many challenges existed in finding the right date.

Mr. Johnson thanked Mr. Tokle for his report, and turned the floor over to Mr. Wilson for his report from the Coaches' Subcommittee.

2. Proposals from the Coaches' Subcommittee

Mr. Wilson reported that the standard for Olympic Training Center free use, as recommended by the Subcommittee is; Top-10 ranking athletes in the SuperTour, after the U.S. Ski Team members had been removed. The top-5 women and top-5 juniors on the National Ranking List. Six additional spots per division.

He stated that there had been much discussion about expanding the scope of the Junior Olympics, but finally it was decided to leave the structure of the event the way it was, with each organizing committee having the option to expand the number of competitions regionally or locally, if they wished.

He stated that, if a women's class for the World Junior Championships was approved, and therefore a high percent of the female jumpers could not attend the National Championship in March, the SuperTour in Brattleboro, VT would also serve as the National Championship for women.

Mr. Wilson explained that Steamboat, as host to three major events during the coming winter, would like to ask to host the Junior Olympics one week later than prescribed by the rules, in an effort to create a better environment for volunteer recruitment. After a thorough and adequate discussion, Mr. Wilson made a motion to fix the dates for the 2005 Junior Olympics as February 24-27. This motion was seconded by Mr. Heckert.

Motion denied.

Mr. Wilson gave an overview of the National Calendar, including the National Ranking List events, and the calendar was **supported**.

Mr. Wilson explained that the SuperTour organizers in Minneapolis planned to host their competition as a "target format" event, and explained the rules to the members. Mr. Laue made a

motion to accept this format, and to accept a maximum of one to two target format competitions in the SuperTour per season. Mr. Holland seconded the motion, stating his belief that this event could be a good promotion for the sport, but that it did not help to decide the best ski jumper.

Motion carries.

Mr. Wilson noted the **support** of the Subcommittee for the use and development of traditional sites and traditional dates, which would provide the basis of the calendar planning for the 2006 and 2007 seasons.

With the conclusion of his report, Mr. Wilson turned the floor back to Mr. Johnson.

3. Replacement/Re-nomination of Members with Expiring Terms

Mr. Johnson asked the members for their nomination for the Officials' Chairman. Mr. Laue nominated Reed Zuehlke for the position. With no other nominations on the table, and no second to Mr. Laue's nomination, the item was deferred for further discussion by the members of the Subcommittee.

Mr. Johnson asked the members for their nomination for a new Coaches' Chairman. Mr. Heckert nominated Todd Wilson, and was seconded by Mr. Togle.

Nomination accepted.

Mr. Johnson noted that, after the last meeting, Mr. Bodensteiner was confirmed to replace Mr. Lunde as Calendar Planning Chairman and representative to the Committee, with a term limit defined by his employment.

Mr. Johnson opened the floor for nominations by the various divisional chairmen, for the position of divisional representative. Mr. Heckert was nominated by the Chairman of the Rocky Mountain Division. This nomination was seconded by the Chairman of the Eastern Division.

Nomination accepted.

Mr. Johnson stated that the term of the athlete representatives, Mr. Holland and Mr. Laue, were expiring, as was their eligibility as athlete representatives, since it had been ten years since they last competed internationally.

Mr. Togle made a motion to re-install them, pending approval from the athletes' advisory board, and was seconded by Mr. Heckert.

Nomination provisionally accepted.

Mr. Johnson asked for any new business to be brought to the table. Accordingly, a resolution of support for the ski jumping facility in Winter Park Colorado was read, and accepted by the Committee members, who asked the Chairman to bring it forward to the Board of Directors for their adoption.

With no further business, the spring meeting of the Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined Committee was adjourned on a motion made by Mr. Heckert and seconded by Mr. Togle.