

# SNOWBOARDING SPORT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

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The Lodges, Deer Valley, Park City, UT  
May 18, 2007

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Michael Bell - Intermountain Rep  
Bill Slattery - FIS Rep  
Paul Krahulec - Rocky Rep  
Jason Toutolmin - USASA Rep  
Tricia Byrnes - Athlete Rep  
Lisa Kosglow - Athlete Rep  
Tom Casey - Central Rep  
Randy Rogers - PNW Rep  
Mike Mallon - Chairman  
Phoebe Mills - IJC Rep

## OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jim Goff - ORDA Lake Placid  
Nancy Wiedel - RA Rocky  
Jon Casson - SSWSC  
Andy Gilbert - SVSEF Coach  
Spencer Tamblyn – SSWSC Coach  
Mike Jankowski - US Team Coach  
Jeremy Forster - US Snowboarding Director  
Tom Winters - FIS Rep  
Thelma Hoessler - RA  
Gary Wright - FIS TD  
Eric Webster - USSA Grand Prix  
Jon Casson - SSWSC Coach  
Ben Boyd – Vail Club Coach  
John Jett – CJ Timing  
Cath Jett – CJ Timing  
Hans Hibbard – MBSEF  
Ian Burkheimer – Terra NW  
Dylan Omlin – Auburn Ski Club  
George Fellos – Auburn Ski Club  
Kirby Vernon – Boyne Resorts  
Spencer Tamblyn  
Richard Groff – parent  
Jill DeVleming– Foundation  
Becky Woolley – Foundation  
Graham Watanabe – SBX athlete

1. Chairman's Welcome: Michael Mallon

Mallon called the meeting to order, went through the introductions and determined that a quorum was achieved with those who were present. Mallon also reviewed the Sport Committee operating procedures.

2. New Elections: Michael Mallon

Opening for a new Eastern Representative. Thanks to Alan Smarse for his service as the Eastern Rep. Mallon nominated Scott Adam as Eastern division representative. Mallon presented the platform for the Eastern Rep. Approved by acclamation.

Opening for the Rules and Technical Position. Mallon asked for nominations for the Rules and Tech position. John Jett nominated Cath Jett. Phoebe Mills nominated Jon Casson. Cath Jett was elected to the rules and tech position.

Mallon presented the need for a new at-large member of the executive snowboard committee. Mills nominated Jason Toutolmin as the at-large member. Nomination tabled for research based on voting member status. Approved by acclamation.

Randy Rogers stepped down as the PNSA representative. Lisa Kosglow nominated Hans Hibbard as the PNSA representative. Approved by acclamation. Hibbard elected as PNSA Representative.

3. 2006 Meeting Minutes approval: Michael Mallon

Motion to approve by Phoebe Mills. Approved by acclamation.

4. FIS Report – Bill Slattery

Slattery reviewed the agenda for the FIS meetings in Portoroz. The Olympic criteria process will be up for review. The process going into Torino worked well for all nations. Slattery will be asking the FIS to continue with the current procedure.

There have been World Cup calendaring issues with adding the US back on the calendar. Jeremy detailed the reasons and will work to add the US World Cup back to the schedule.

Mid-season quota correction for the World Cup was addressed. The hope is not to decrease quota spots, but change to have the ability to only add additional quota spots during the season.

There is also a proposal to change Halfpipe finals from 6 to 8 for women. The judges' working group has recommended this change.

Tom Winters mentioned a FIS TD snowboard update might be taking place tentatively scheduled for October 19 – 21, 2007 in Vancouver, WA.

5. SBX Team Report: Peter Foley

Amazing camp at Mt Hood Meadows, the team was able to train on great courses. US Snowboarding was able to run a junior camp in conjunction with the team camp. Amazing course built by Mt Hood Meadows, best training opportunity to date.

World Championships was the highlight of the SBX year. Great to see Callan Chythlook, Alex Diebold, Pat Holland, and Nick Baumgartner setup this season. Great to see Roger Carver and the juniors coming up and pushing the big guys.

Foley acknowledged that he would like to work a NorAm event series into the schedule and budget for the upcoming seasons.

Foley suggested that we work together as a community to continue to build courses in conjunction with other events. Graham Watanabe addressed the development side and the needs to add in more events.

Jon Casson added that more NorAm events would help to identify more up and coming athletes and who would have more interaction on the team.

6. Freestyle Team Report: Mike Jankowski

Overall great season. The summer brought great camps in Hood and New Zealand. Great success at the Grand Prix events and the highlight was sweeping the Lake Placid Men's Halfpipe.

Forster brought up the FIS World Cup age group decision. He discussed the reasons why it was determined. Must be 15 to compete in the World Cup. Looking ahead to next year, Jankowski discussed the Mt Hood Meadows May camp. The camp was amazing with lots of progression. Continuing to progress in women's riding and plan to increase elite services in conditioning, nutrition program and wax tech.

Rookies have had great showings all year. Forster discussed the initiative for the rookie team coach that was presented at the Athletic Summit.

Kosglow asked for clarification for the website to be updated with the criteria. Winters added the need to keep a portion of coaches' discretion in the selection criteria.

Forster added all of the Olympic selection pipes would be 22' pipes.

7. Alpine Team Report: Jeremy Forster

Challenging year with staff changes but had a very encouraging year with results from Justin Reiter and Michelle Gorgone. Steve Person did a great job leading the team this year. The calendaring for the 07/08 season looks much better and looking forward to a great year. Jan Wengelin is back with the team as the Head Technical and Conditioning coach.

8. Department Overview: Jeremy Forster

Forster announced the *Theory of Revolution* was a great success; unfortunately we missed the holiday sales season, but it was still selling well. We partnered with USASA to sell the DVD on their website as well. There is an opportunity to sell to clubs if anyone is interested.

Tom Casey also mentioned the *USSA Parent Coaching* DVD which is a great resource and available online at [www.ussa.org](http://www.ussa.org).

Forster mentioned we were starting our plan for Vancouver 2010 and were currently looking for lodging and hoped to have lodging confirmed by next April.

Forster also discussed the new Center of Excellence building. The building will be a great training facility for both the team and clubs. The organization hoped the facility would be open in 2009. Forster also added that it was possible for clubs and athletes to utilize the Utah Olympic Park water ramps this summer.

9. Membership: Sheryl Barnes

Barnes reviewed the membership numbers for the 06-07 season, highlighting that snowboarding athlete membership was up 11% for national memberships (590 members).

Barnes reviewed the background screening process and reminded everyone that once successfully completed, the background screening process was valid for three years.

The fee changes for 07/08 were \$60 for the Regional Competitor, \$120 for a National Competitor, \$60 for an Officials' membership and \$115 for a Coaches' membership. Barnes also announced that online membership registration would hopefully be available by the fall for both FIS and USSA memberships.

10. Region Rep/Central Report: Tom Casey

Casey highlighted the athletes from the Central region and their results at the domestic and international levels. Casey expressed his enthusiasm about being involved with the *Revolution Tour* and the great qualifying opportunities it provided, highlighting that the event at Spirit this season provided both World Junior and World Cup opportunities. He is looking forward to having the event back in his region. Casey also touched on his primary goal of projecting the image of having fun through snowboarding and reminded everyone of the great riders that came from the central area: Danny Davis, Steve Fisher, Mason and Molly Aguirre.

11. Region Rep/Rocky Mtn. Report: Paul Krahulec

Krahulec highlighted the many events and athlete results in the Rocky region. The Rocky region hosted two *Race to the Cup* events, a *Revolution Tour*, Grand Prix and a NorAm SBX event. He noted that the junior athletes from the region had a tremendous year both domestically and internationally posting top results amongst fields packed with veterans. Krahulec addressed the tentative schedule for 07/08 and noted that they hoped to move the *Race to the Cup* trail down to a lower and more visible location.

12. Region Rep/Intermountain Report: Michael Bell

Bell reported that snowboarding's growth in the region could be seen in consistently larger and more competitive clubs/teams; PCSBT, Sun Valley, Jackson Hole, Ogden area team, Snowbird, and a University group/team. There were a lot of kids in the region and a fair amount of respectable results as a region as these athletes began to dabble in higher level/caliber and out-of-region events. Bell also mentioned that we needed to increase the number of regional judges and add more education opportunities in the Intermountain area.

13. Region Rep/PNSA Report: Lisa Kosglow for Randy Rodgers

Kosglow reported that a group of interested individuals formed the PNSA snowboard competition committee. They met for the first time in the fall to discuss the snowboard needs of the NW and to elect new leadership. Lisa Kosglow and Hans Hibbard were elected as the PNSA Snowboard Committee Chair and Assistant Chair. Officials Training and Judges Clinics are scheduled for the fall in Hood River. They are also hoping to get the OISA into the pipeline and get new events in the area.

14. Region Rep/Eastern Report: Michael Mallon for Alan Smarse

Mallon thanked everyone in the region for all of their hard work and dedication to events in the East. Mallon also reported that athletes from the East continue to place in the top of each competition. Bromley hosted a *Race to the Cup*, which was well-received and a great hill for the event. Okemo hosted a *Revolution Tour* and did an outstanding job of hosting the event.

15. Athlete Report: Lisa Kosglow/Tricia Byrnes

Kosglow reported on the USSA alumni event and explained that it was a huge success. She also mentioned that the Foundation decision to expand the scholarship opportunities to alumni was very important and well received. She also touched on rider communication and the needs for improvement.

Kosglow also touched on the need for more high-level SBX events in the US. Byrnes reported the need for more consistent halfpipes and must be 22ft. She also reported that the Grand Prix should consider staying with two practice days at all events.

Kosglow reported that an Alpine Athlete group was formed to give feedback to USSA. The working group is a positive step forward. Randy Rogers brought up the need for encouraging a bigger Alpine development program and Jon Casson added the need for focusing on 15 and under Alpine athletes.

16. Judges Report: Phoebe Mills

Mills reported that this season brought some new faces and talented new judges to all USSA events. The fall clinics helped expand the base of judges and identify which judges are ready to move up through the ranks. The IJC educated almost 100 judges in the US alone. The IJC educated on the Pro, National and Regional levels in coordination with both the USSA and USASA.

The *Revolution Tour* events are continuing to develop into great events on the regional scale thus bringing junior riders together prior to the Grand Prix events. Much of the scheduling was done in coordination with Brandon Wong, who does the scheduling for judges in Canada. That way we ensured that most of the USSA and CSF events have both Canadian and US judges.

In the future, we need to do a better job making this arrangement clear with regional event organizers so they are aware that they will need to bring in one or two Canadian judges. CSF and Canadian event organizers have done an excellent job bringing US judges up for their events. Future support from USSA in implementing this exchange is appreciated because it provides a useful experience for the judges and increases the quality of judging at events. It also adds more prestige for the riders, especially at junior events.

Forster mentioned that there is the opportunity for more US judges on the World Cup Tour and the potential of an US Olympic judge. Forster added that we needed to determine if it was beneficial to have a US Judge on the Olympic panel. Mills added there are currently a handful of people interested. Kosglow asked if we could pick which judges we wanted to send to the Olympics and provide them with funding to attend the FIS clinics? Forster described the process. Full IJC report available by contacting Abbi Nyberg

17. Industry: Marty Carrigan

Carrigan was not available to attend the meeting. Industry report available by contacting Abbi Nyberg.

18. Grand Prix/World Cup Report: Eric Webster

Webster gave a review of the Grand Prix Season. Highlights of the season were developing a new partner and venue at Tamarack, Idaho and the first 22' Halfpipe event on the Grand Prix Tour. Also positives for the season were the Breckenridge Quarterpipe Artic Challenge qualifier and first ever 5-star TTR ranked Grand Prix at Mt. Bachelor. Webster also reviewed the goals, registration process and schedule for next year.

The goals for the 07/08 season are as follows:

- Maintain credible venues and system to name the Olympic HP team every four years.
- Confirm participation by the USA's top ranked HP riders: 65% in non-Olympic years and 100% in Olympic years.
- Provide opportunity for advancement in the athletic pipeline between the *Revolution Tour* and elite competition levels.
- Maintain the value provided to USSA through sponsorship & broadcast sales; provide mainstream marketing opportunities (beyond the Snowboard industry), corporate/donor entertainment, and identification as a premiere event property in the eyes of the mainstream public.

The schedule for 07/08:

December 14-16,2007	Breckenridge	Halfpipe, Exhibition
February 8-10, 2008	Tamarack	Halfpipe, SnowboardCross
March 7-9, 2008	TBD	Halfpipe, Slopestyle

Kosglow asked why there were not two SBX events scheduled in the GP's or was it possible to award a truck to the SBX field? Webster responded that, at this point, it was not possible with the given budget. Richard Groff asked whether or not we could increase the budget for the Grand Prix events to host more events.

Graham Watanabe stated his frustration that USSA was choosing to support slopestyle events when we still needed to focus on SBX growth. He commented that most riders would rather compete at USSA events instead of relying on private events. Ben Boyd mentioned there was currently more loyalty in the SBX program to USSA rather than freestyle and we should foster those relationships.

Mallon summarized the important points being that SBX was already an Olympic sport but we needed to be organized to identify slopestyle as the up and coming venue.

19. Domestic Event Report: Abbi Nyberg

Nyberg recapped the season; the *Race to the Cup* events were in their fourth season qualifying athletes for start rights at the Lake Placid World Cup. Stops this year included:

- Copper, CO Nov. 20-21 40 Women/ 51 Men
- Steamboat Springs, CO January 5-6 28 Women/ 40 Men
- Okemo, VT March 10-11 26 Women/ 46 Men

First two events served as World Cup qualifiers, driving attendance and participation by national team members, resulting in 500-point races. Races in Bromley were worth 260. U.S. races continued to have higher participation numbers and points' value than Canada. Prize money this year was divided among top three for both disciplines, \$400/ \$225/ \$125. We worked in cooperation with Canada to develop a cohesive schedule.

The tentative schedule for next year is as follows:

- Nov 19-20 Copper, CO
- Jan. 20-4 Steamboat, CO
- Mar. East Coast

Nyberg recapped the *Revolution Tour* events locations and attendance numbers:

Jan. 26 -28 Copper, CO			
HP 27 W/ 75 M	SS 22 W/ 86 M		SBX 33 W/ 84 M
Feb. 9-11 Mt Bachelor, OR			
HP 26 W/ 50 M	SS 16 W/ 50 M		SBX 24 W/ 51 M
Feb. 16 –18 Spirit Mtn, MN			
HP 18 W/ 44 M/ 12 Jr	SS 16 W/ 52 M/ 14 Jr		SBX 12 W/ 34 M
Mar. 2-4 Okemo, VT			
HP 19 W/ 49 M/	SS 10 W/ 38 M/		SBX 9 W/ 41 M
June 21-22 Windells, OR			

Nyberg stated once again the *Revolution Tour* was a huge success. Registration for the events sold out within the first day. The *Revolution Tour* events were qualifiers for World Junior, Grand Prix 07/08, USASA Nationals, Lake Placid World Cup and the US Open. All of the resorts built great venues.

Nyberg stated that we would continue to strive to use host resorts with high quality venues. Tour support included prize product from Burton, series T-Shirts from Bonfire, product from Swix, Dakine, Smith. *Snowboard* magazine provided four full-page ads in their winter issues supporting the series. US Open awarded pre-qualified spots to the top two overall winners, USASA awarded Open class spots to overall Tour winners, top three finishers earned exempt spots on the 07-08 Grand Prix Tour.

Nyberg reviewed the tentative schedule for 07/08:

- Jan. 10 –13 Copper, CO – SBX, HP, SS
- Jan. 25 – 27 Park City, UT – HP, SS
- Feb. 15 – 17 Mid-West – SBX, HP, SS
- Feb. 22 –24 Mt Hood Meadows – SBX, HP, SS
- Mar. 14 –16 East Coast – SBX, HP, SS

Nyberg asked for comments on the *Revolution Tour* and discussion included the following proposals to the *Revolution Tour*:

- Criteria needed to be posted earlier for *Revolution Tour* qualifiers.
- Need to have pre-qualifiers for the *Revolution Tour* events based on past year events and/or USASA events.
- Online registration should be evaluated to determine if opening the entire event series at the same time is productive.
- Consider putting SBX age limits in place at the *Revolution Tour*. Many older athletes are competing and compromising some of the younger athletes' performance.
- Refund policy needs to be determined for the entire Tour.
- Look at running events mid-week to save on travel costs, etc.

Nyberg also recapped the NorAm SBX events that were held at Copper, CO January 31 – Feb. 1 with 34 Women / 91 Men each day.

Copper hosted two well-received NorAm SBX events right after the X-Games. Due to the poor snow conditions in Europe seven foreign teams attended the event resulting in a 400-point race. The course could have been more challenging for the field, but overall it was good race.

20. High Performance: Andy Walshe

Walshe presented a slide presentation of the new high performance program that USSA was implementing. Walshe also presented a slide presentation on the plans for the new Center of Excellence training center.

21. USASA Report: Jason Toutolmin

Toutolmin introduced himself as the new executive director. He discussed many positive changes, over 5,200 members - majority full members with 35 event series and 550 events at over 100 resorts. Numbers up from last year. Membership is strictly online only or at event, printed membership cards online. USASA developed a new national ranking system, overall a big success. They had 1,497 competitors at Nationals. New executive board has been very productive. Starting to get more industry support. Financially ended on the plus side, paid off large debts. Looking forward to building a better relationship with USSA. They are also looking at producing an alumni event at Nationals with all of the pros who have graduated through the USASA system.

Working on a redesign of registration, ranking, and website based on TTR design. The company doing the software design was looking at redesigning a much better site and maintenance and an automated event process with online registration.

22. Program Report: Abbi Nyberg

Nyberg reviewed the Domestic Snowboard report including World Junior Championships which included 20 total athletes (6W/6M SBX, 3W/6 M PGS/PSL, 1W BA). U.S. athletes had a great showing. All but one female qualified for SBX finals, two men qualified (Minghini – 20th, Greenspan – 28th). One female qualified for both PGS finals (Madeline Wiencke - 8th) and PSL finals (Brooke Shaw - 13th). One male qualified for PSL finals (Michael Trapp - 13th). The highlight was Brooke Shaw finishing 3rd in the SBX and Jordan Karlinski finishing 2nd in Big Air. Good SBX and Big Air venues, poor Alpine venues, no HP. Guest coaches were Nathan Park, Jon Casson, Adam Cassanova, Phil Fell.

Nyberg also recapped the Junior Development Camps. In summer 2006 we ran Project Gold camps for both Halfpipe and Alpine at Timberline. In May 2007 we ran Project Gold HP and SBX camps at Mt Hood Meadows, which were very successful camps with great venues. Rick Shimpeno and Nathan Park were guest coaches. June 2007 Project Gold HP and Alpine camps are scheduled again at Timberline.

Nyberg stated that a Judge and Official Subcommittee was being formed to build out course materials and a clinic plan developed to educate more officials and judges in every region of the country.

Nyberg reviewed the current status of Coaches Education. The *Theory of Revolution* DVD was produced and is currently available. We currently offered on an as-requested basis. Working this summer with Bud Keene to build out level 100 Coaches Education materials and clinic schedule. Goals are to provide a basic level of coaching knowledge and then the resources to make coaches better.

Mills asked if there was an opportunity use existing coaches education materials. Toutolmin agreed that we could work together with USASA materials so as not to reinvent the wheel.

Hans Hibbard stated the two different entities (USSA/USASA) operating on their own are potentially losing athletes after they have stopped competing in USASA programs. Toutolmin stated that the open registration process is a USASA strength. Toutolmin suggested that it would be better if the *Revolution Tour* was a pre-qualified event. Instead of the two event series competing against each other, work toward a process of going through USASA events to get to the *Revolution Tour*.

23. New Business: Slopestyle National Champion

Forster presented for consideration whether it is the appropriate time to have Slopestyle National Champion. Mallon asked for a discussion on how we want to move forward. Discussion ensued with Forster stated that Slopestyle is clearly an established event/. Establishing a Slopestyle National Champion would be the next step in the development of Slopestyle within US Snowboarding and potentially towards becoming an Olympic discipline. Byrnes added that if it was to be a National Champion discipline it would need to have the same prize money as the Grand Prix, she also stated that right now the National Champion title didn't hold much weight, but in the future it might. Casson asked whether we could partner with the TTR or other large events to create a true National Champion.

Mallon asked for a motion to name a National Champion, no motion given. It was tabled until next meeting.

24. New Business: World University Games

Mallon stated that the World University Games exist and it had been brought to our attention that some riders were interested in attending this event. We have not identified WUG as part of our current pipeline. Mallon then opened the item up for discussion.

Jim Groff introduced himself here as a parent of a son who was a college student. He presented additional research on the World University Games and presented the basic scope of the event. Groff stated that he was not here asking for money, but hoping to give the age group of 18-23 snowboarders who were no longer trying to be a pro, but still loved the sport, the opportunity to represent their country.

Groff showcased the NZE program, where each athlete pays his or her own way to the WUG. Groff asked the Sport Committee to consider creating a selection criterion for this event. Groff suggested working with the USCSA to develop the criteria. Cath Jett noted the USCSA needed more structure to insure good quality qualifying events. Mallon suggested the Sport Committee research this topic before making a decision. Nyberg stated that she would research the topic further and the feasibility of selection event and the development of criteria. Mallon said that this would be added as an item on the agenda for the fall meeting. Groff mentioned that we would need a decision prior to the season to determine selection criteria. The next World University Games are in 2008/09.

25. New Business: PSCSA - snowboard coach alliance

Jon Casson reviewed the proposal to form a snowboard coach alliance. He recapped that the number and variety of snowboard training programs has grown and changed so much that we feel there is a need for an organization to train knowledgeable competition coaches. The full PSCSA report is available by contacting Abbi Nyberg or Jon Casson.

Mallon asked how many coaches were involved at this point. Casson said they have 8-10 actively involved and another 40 were aware of the proposed organization. Mallon asked if the goal of the organization was to take control of the coaches' education and Casson responded that it was more of an effort to help alleviate the burden. Forster added that the biggest hurdles would be to determine our opportunities to work together. Insurance might pose the biggest problem.

26. New Business: USASA/US Snowboarding partnership:

Mallon informed the group that a task force had been formed to work on the e USASA/US Snowboarding partnership. Jeremy Forster, Mike Mallon, Phoebe Mills, Jason Toutolmin, Paul Krahulec, Jon Casson and Abbi Nyberg comprised the task force. The hope was to come to the committee in the fall with a solid working partnership.

27. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned Paul Krahulec, Kosglow second.