

CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE MINUTES

USSA CONGRESS 2006 - PARK CITY, UT

May 11-13, 2006

Chair: Jon Engen

1. Chairman's Introduction

Jon Engen welcomed the members of the Committee and the many guests to the meeting.

"This is an exciting time to be involved with Cross-country; we see many challenges, and an even greater number of opportunities.

The goal of the US Ski and Snowboard Association programs is to become the best in the world. The USSA executives and top directors have been duly informed of the 36 Olympic medals available in Cross-country, and have by, allocating more funding and otherwise, committed to support us and invest in the sport's future.

This support has been expressed due to notable results by U.S. skiers, and more than anything else the presentation of Cross-country's new, long-term, comprehensive performance work plan. This plan fits the USSA profile. The USSA is a very structurally strong and organized association. This is a solid framework that can support us well in the building process and at the top level.

Cross-country is very well represented in the USSA at this point. Our last Chairman, Lee Todd, is active in the Foundation and in important committee posts. Nina Kempel is the USOC Athlete Representative to the BOD, and Carl Swenson recently joined the USSA Athletes' Council. Lastly, myself as the Chairman represents the Cross-country Committee on the Board. Together, we have the strongest direct sport representation of anybody. Let us use this position wisely.

It is important to understand what type of organization the USSA is. We are not a simple service organization, but rather a participation organization. By participating, you can shape the sport's future and operating environment on all levels. In that regard, we all need to do a little better to make our programs move forward, and let us start with us here at the Congress.

I want to express a great Thank You to all of you who attend the Congress and contribute to the organization and its programs. I also want to extend that to the people working to improve our sport across the country; coaches, local and regional leaders, event organizers and the commercial interests supporting our sport.

It is worth highlighting some of our recent achievements we can build on:

- We now have men and women capable of podium positions on the World Cup.
- We have strong juniors and good recruiting.
- We have the fastest man and woman in the world on cross-country skis.
- We have developed the US SuperTour. This is perhaps the best and most important US initiative in 25 years. We stimulate athletes to compete, we maintain and improve an international point base available to US athletes, and we facilitate international exchange through this program. We are on course to establish a Continental Cup attractive to skiers worldwide.

I come from the trenches of Cross-country skiing and will bring the hands-on experience to the Board level and beyond in the fight to expand participation and performance opportunities for our

sport in the US. I will work to bring out good ideas from many people rather than forcing those of my own.

Let us agree on one thing, and that is not to agree on everything. We need challenges and tough questions. How we collectively open up to new ideas will ultimately produce better results. Parallel to that, we need to respect each other, the Committee and the staff, and move forward as a united body.

In closing, I want to congratulate our skiers on fine results in the Olympic year. The Olympic Team selection received many comments, mainly emotional and opinionated. I supported the staff 100% in their selection. This was a shining example of how the informed people, those who participate in the organization and the process, kept the discussions on the table. That allowed everyone to continue doing the sport, and we had a good year.”

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

2. Roll Call

The following Committee members were recognized as being present:

Luke Bodensteiner (Term limit: by employment)	
Patrick Casey (Term limit: Spring '09)	
Joey Caterinichio (Term limit: Spring '07)	
Pat Cote (Term limit: Spring '07)	Substituted by Pete Phillips (no vote)
Jon Engen (Term limit: Spring '06)	
Andrew Gerlach (Term limit: Spring '08)	Excused
Gary Giberson (Term limit: Spring '07)	
Bob Gross (Term limit: Spring '08)	
Yuriy Gusev (Term limit: Spring '08)	
Rick Kapala (Term limit: Spring '08)	
Nina Kemppel (Term limit: Spring '07)	Absent
Chris Klein (Term limit: Spring '07)	Excused
Bill Sterling (Term limit: Spring '07)	Substituted by Sally Jones (no vote)
Kevin Sweeney (Term limit: Spring '07)	
Carl Swenson (Ex-officio, AAC)	
Matt Whitcomb (Term limit: by employment)	

Mr. Engen declared a quorum.

3. Additions to the Agenda

The following items were added to the agenda of the subcommittees:

- SuperTour organizers evaluation
- Scoring both qualification and finals of sprint
- Minimum penalty – Team Sprint
- TD Uniforms
- USSA TD Report revisions
- Officials seminar requirements

4. Approval of Minutes, Congress '05

The minutes of the 2005 Congress were distributed one month prior to the meeting, and on a motion from Rick Kapala and a second from Kevin Sweeney, the minutes were **approved**.

5. Elite Performance Model Workshop

The members of the Committee reviewed the "Elite Performance Model", which has been and will continue to be used in directing programming decisions during the long-term planning (July) and operational planning (April) periods.

The outcomes of the workshop will be compiled as updates to the EPM, and will be distributed accordingly.

6. Reports and Proposals from Officials' Subcommittee

Bob Gross presented the proposals from the Officials' Subcommittee:

- A working group has **been appointed** to create an organizing committee checklist, which a TD can use to consult with a site.
- The National TD and race organizers seminar **will be held** in Reno, NV, October
- TD reimbursement rules for mileage – the rule will be changed from \$.31 per mile to "government reimbursement rate".

This proposal was **approved**.

- A proposal to require the chiefs of competition of the National Championships and Junior Olympics to attend a national TD seminar within the two-year period prior to their event was **approved**.

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

U.S. Cross Country Championships, Soldier Hollow
TD – Scott Wilson
TDA – Pat cote

USSA Junior Olympics
TD – Mike Miller
TDA – Matt Pauli

7. Reports and Proposals from Coaches' Subcommittee

Rick Kapala made the following proposals:

- Selection criteria for Junior Scandinavian Cup, Junior World Championships, and the "selection principles" for World Championships, World Cup and U.S. Ski Team were **approved**. The criteria for the U23 Championships was amended and **approved**, and the staff was directed to review the FIS points cutoff one more time before publication.
- Minimum penalties for regional races (60.00 for men and 110.00 for women) were **approved**.
- Maximum race penalties for U.S. Championship races (50.00 for men and 95.00 for women) were **approved**.

- Invalidation of race results containing only J2 competitors (as a stand-alone class) was **approved** with the exception of the Junior Olympic J2 races, which can be scored.
- The national calendar was **approved** as presented to the Committee.
- The pursuit race was **removed** from the Junior Olympic program, and the new program of Sprint, Long-distance mass-start, short individual start and single technique relay (with techniques alternating in each event each year) was **approved**.
- A proposal to order the JO sprint finals according to the order of the classes in qualification was **approved**.
- A proposal to give free credentials to Junior Olympic divisional teams as follows, was **approved**:
 - Teams of less than 30 athletes = 6 free credentials
 - Team 30-42 = 7 free
 - Teams 43+ = 8 free
- A proposal to increase the number of course bibs that are allotted to each Junior Olympic divisional team from 10 to 12 (three of which can be RED) was **approved**.
- A proposal to require that all issued Junior Olympic coach credentials must be approved by the division's team leader or head coach was **approved**.
- A proposal to require coaching credentials only (not bibs) for access to the wax cabins at the Junior Olympics was **approved**.
- Only teams made up of two U.S. national championship-eligible skiers may be declared U.S. Champions in the Team Sprint – **approved**.
- Seeding at the National Championship and SuperTour races will be based on "best available" (e.g. FIS or USSA) points in the respective discipline – **approved**.
- Presque Isle was **approved provisionally** to host the 2009 Junior Olympics, contingent upon completing the homologation of their trails for the specified formats.

8. Next Meeting

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

APPENDIX I – CALENDAR – 2007

Date	Location	Comments
Nov. 24-25	West Yellowstone, MT	SuperTour Sprint F, 10/15km C
Dec. 2-3	Scandinavia Cup	
Dec. 2-3	Bozeman, MT	Sprint F (Finals 1-8 only) Team Sprint C
Dec. 6-10	Sun Valley, ID	SuperTour Sprint C 10/15km C 15/30km F mass-start
Dec. 9-10	Scandinavia Cup	
Dec. 16-17	Soldier Hollow, UT	SuperTour 10/15km F Sprint C
Jan. 3-7	Houghton, MI	U.S. Short Distance Nationals – SuperTour Day 1: 5/10km C Day 2: 10/15km F Day 4: Sprint C (30 in Finals) Day 5: Team Sprint F
Jan. 13-14	Madison, WI	SuperTour Team Sprint F, Sprint C (Finals 1-8 and 9-16)
Jan. 20-21	Mt. Itasca, MN	SuperTour 5/10km C, 10/15km F
Jan. 24-28	Telemark, WI	SuperTour Sprint F (Finals 1-8 only) 5/10km F, 10/15km C mass-start
Jan. 29-Feb. 4	Tarvisio, ITA	World Jr/U23 Championship
Feb. 3-4	Minneapolis	SuperTour Sprint F (Finals 1-8) 30/30km F mass-start
Feb. 10	Aspen, CO	SuperTour 30/30km F mass-start
Feb. 10-11	OPA Cup	
Feb. 17-18	OPA Cup	
Feb. 22-Mar. 4	Sapporo, JPN	World Championships
Feb. 24	Hayward, WI	American Birkebeiner 52km F mass-start
Mar. 5-10	Soldier Hollow, UT	Jos
Mar. 7-10	Jackson, NH	NCAA Championship
Mar. 18-25	Quebec, CAN	Canadian Nationals
Mar. 29-April 1	TBD	U.S. Distance Nationals/SuperTour Finals Mar. 31: Pursuit April 1: 30/50km F mass-start

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

5 freestyle distance competitions
5 classic distance competitions
4 freestyle sprint competitions
4 classic sprint competitions
1 pursuit competition
2 freestyle team sprint
1 classic team sprint
4 freestyle popular marathon race
0 classic popular marathon race

CALENDAR DRAFT - 2008

Date	Location	Comments
Nov. 23-24	West Yellowstone, MT	SuperTour/ US100 Sprint F, 10/15km C
Dec. 1-2	Scandinavia Cup	
Dec. 1-2	Bozeman, MT	Sprint F, Team Sprint C
Dec. 6-9	Sun Valley, ID	SuperTour Sprint F 10/15km F 15/30km C mass-start
Dec. 8-9	Scandinavia Cup	
Dec. 15-17	Soldier Hollow, UT	SuperTour 10/15km C 15/30km F mass-start
Jan. 2-6	Houghton, MI	U.S. Short Distance Nationals – SuperTour Day 1: 5/10km F Day 2: 10/15km C Day 4: Sprint F (30 in Finals) Day 5: Team Sprint C
Jan. 12-13	Madison, WI	SuperTour Team Sprint C, Sprint F (Finals 1-8 and 9-16)
Jan. 19-20	Mt. Itasca, MN	SuperTour 10/10km F, 10/10km C
Jan. 23-27	Telemark, WI	SuperTour Sprint C (Finals 1-8 only??) 5/10km C, 10/15km F mass-start
TBD	Sczcyrk, POL	World Jr/U23 Championship
Feb. 2-3	Minneapolis	SuperTour Sprint C (Finals 1-8) 30/30km F mass-start
Feb. 9	Aspen, CO	SuperTour 30/30km F mass-start
	OPA Cup	
	OPA Cup	
Feb. 23	Hayward, WI	American Birkebeiner 52km F mass-start
Mar. 10-15	Anchorage, AK	Jos
Mar. 13-15	West TBD	NCAA Championship
Mar. 17-24	TBD	Canadian Nationals
Mar. 29-30	TBD	U.S. Distance Nationals/SuperTour Finals Mar. 31: Pursuit April 1: 30/50km C mass-start

APPENDIX II - USSA 2007 JUNIOR SCANDINAVIAN CUP TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

1. USSA POLICY

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

2. TEAM SIZE

A maximum of twelve (12) athletes (6 per sex) may represent the United States in the 2007 Junior Scandinavian Cup.

3. START RIGHTS

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

4. ELIGIBILITY FOR CONSIDERATION

USSA will consider for selection only those USSA members in good standing with valid U.S. passports, and born in 1989 or later. An athlete shall be ineligible for consideration if he/she is not fit to compete at the time selections are made due to any injury or illness from which he/she is not expected to recover adequately by the time of the Junior Scandinavian Cup.

5. TEAM SELECTION PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA

The USSA Development staff is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the oversight of the Nordic Director of USSA. In order to ensure that the United States fields a representative team, team size shall consist of six (6) athletes per sex. Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in the men's 10km C, 15km F and Sprint competitions, and women's 5km C, 10km F and Sprint competitions at the 2007 U.S. Cross Country Championships, tentatively scheduled for Jan. 3-6, 2007 (the "selection period"). Discretionary selections, if any, may be based on a variety of factors, including competitions conducted outside of the selection period.

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

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

(b) Objective Criteria. Up to six (6) athletes per sex shall be selected to the team based solely upon their competition results during the selection period. Team selections up to

the maximum team size shall be granted to athletes who have achieved the best cumulative total results during the selection period based on a competitor's best two races (scoring only competitors born in 1989 or later), using the World Cup scoring system outlined in the USSA Competition Guide. Ties will be broken according to the following:

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

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

APPENDIX IV – USSA 2007 CROSS COUNTRY WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

1. USSA POLICY

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

2. TEAM SIZE

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

3. START RIGHTS

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

4. ELIGIBILITY FOR CONSIDERATION

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

5. TEAM SELECTION PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA

The USSA Development staff is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the oversight of the Nordic Director of USSA. In order to ensure that the United States fields a representative team, minimum team size shall consist of five (5) athletes per sex. Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in SuperTour competitions held between November 1, 2006 and December 17, 2006, and in the men's 10km C, 15km F and Sprint (including Junior Finals, if applicable) competitions and women's 5km C, 10km F and Sprint (including Junior Finals, if applicable) competitions at the 2007 U.S. Cross Country Championships, tentatively scheduled for Jan. 3-6, 2007 (the "selection period"). Discretionary selections, if any, may be based on a variety of factors, including competitions conducted outside of the selection period.

(a) Coaches' Discretion. USSA may select up to four (4) athletes to the team using coaches' discretion. The total number of discretionary selections made by the coaching staff shall be no more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the team size described in paragraph 2 above. If the coaching staff fills any available spot(s) on the team with discretionary selections, then the staff may consider any factors including (but not limited to) the following:

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

(b) Objective Criteria.

- 1) Up to two (2) athletes per gender shall be selected to the team based solely upon their SuperTour and Scandinavian FIS competition results between November 1, 2006 and December 17, 2006. Male athletes achieving a FIS point result under 70 FIS points in a SuperTour or Scandinavian FIS distance race, or under 80 FIS points in a SuperTour or Scandinavian FIS sprint race, and female athletes achieving a FIS point result under 75 FIS points in a SuperTour or Scandinavian FIS distance race, or under 90 FIS points in a SuperTour or Scandinavian FIS sprint race between November 1, 2006 and December 17, 2006 shall be selected to the team, unless application of this criterion would result in a total of more than two (2) objective selections per gender, in which case USSA shall use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order:
 - Best FIS points in a SuperTour or Scandinavian FIS competition (held between Nov. 1, 2006-Dec. 17, 2006)
 - Second best FIS points in a SuperTour or Scandinavian FIS competition (held between Nov. 1, 2006-Dec. 17, 2006)
 - Third best FIS points in a SuperTour or Scandinavian FIS competition (held between Nov. 1, 2006-Dec. 17, 2006)
 - Fourth best FIS points in a SuperTour or Scandinavian FIS competition (held between Nov. 1, 2006-Dec. 17, 2006)
- 2) USSA shall ensure that it fields a representative team by selecting as many additional athletes as may be necessary to bring the total team size up to, but not limited to, five (5) athletes per gender based on the best cumulative total results of an athlete's best two U.S. Cross Country Championship races during the selection period, as indicated above, using the World Cup scoring system outlined in the USSA Competition Guide. The tie-breaking procedure is also outlined in the USSA Competition Guide.

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

6. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SELECTIONS

Selections to the 2007 Junior World Championship team shall be announced on January 6, 2007 (tentative) at the offices of USSA in Park City, Utah, and shall be published immediately upon announcement.

APPENDIX V – USSA 2007 U23 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CROSS COUNTRY TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

1. USSA POLICY

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

2. TEAM SIZE

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

3. START RIGHTS

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

4. ELIGIBILITY FOR CONSIDERATION

USSA will consider for selection only those USSA members in good standing with valid U.S. passports and a valid FIS license who have met FIS minimum eligibility standards (currently, athletes born in 1984 or later). An athlete shall be ineligible for consideration for team selection or start rights if he/she is not fit to compete at the time selections are made due to any injury or illness from which he/she is not expected to recover adequately by the time of the 2007 U23 Championships.

5. TEAM SELECTION PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA

The USSA Development Coach is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the approval of the Chief Executive Officer, Vice President of Athletics, and Nordic Director of USSA. Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in National Championship competitions held between January 2, 2007 and January 8, 2007 (tentative), World Cup competitions held between Oct. 1, 2006 and January 8, 2007, and SuperTour and Scandinavian FIS competitions held between Nov. 1 and Dec. 17, 2006 (schedule TBA in the USSA Competition Guide) - (the "objective selection period"). Discretionary selections, if any, may be based on a variety of factors.

(A) Objective Criteria.

- 1) Up to six (6) athletes per gender shall be selected to the team based solely upon their World Cup competition results during the objective selection period. Athletes finishing in the top-30 of an individual event shall be selected to the team, unless application of this criterion would result in a total of more than six (6) selections per gender, in which case USSA shall use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order:
 - Most World Cup points.
 - Lowest current USSA National Ranking List points.
- 2) Up to two (2) athletes per gender shall be selected to the team based solely upon their SuperTour and Scandinavian FIS (schedule TBA in the USSA Competition Guide) competition results held during the objective selection period. Male athletes achieving a FIS point result under 65 FIS points in a distance race, or under 110 FIS points in a sprint race, and female athletes achieving a FIS point result under 100 FIS points in a distance race, or under 125 FIS points in a sprint race between November 1, 2006 and December 17, 2006 shall be selected to the team, unless application of this criterion would result in a total of more than six (6) objective selections per gender, in which case USSA shall use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order:
 - Most World Cup points

-Best FIS points in a FIS competition specified by the objective selection period

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

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

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

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

- 1) Outstanding competition results (including any results achieved outside of the selection period).
- 2) Recent direction or trend in competition results (i.e., improving, flat, or declining).
- 3) Attitude and commitment of athletes.
- 4) Physical fitness level.
- 5) Illness or injury during the selection period.
- 6) Indicia of medal potential in future Olympic or World Championship competition, which would be materially enhanced by selection to team.
- 7) Other unanticipated failure of objective criteria to select an athlete likely to achieve competition results consistent with USSA program goals for the U-23 Championships.

(C) Representative Team Selections. If fewer than five (5) athletes per gender are selected to the team based upon both the objective criteria listed above and coaches' discretion, then USSA shall ensure that it fields a representative team by selecting as many additional athletes as may be necessary to bring the total team size up to, but not limited to, five (5) athletes per gender based on the best cumulative total results of an athlete's best two individual U.S. Cross Country Championship races during the selection period, as indicated above, using the World Cup scoring system outlined in the USSA Competition Guide. The tie-breaking procedure is also outlined in the USSA Competition Guide.

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

6. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SELECTIONS

Selections to the 2007 U23 Championship team shall be announced on January 12, 2007 (tentative) at the offices of USSA in Park City, Utah and shall be published immediately upon announcement.

APPENDIX VI – USSA 2007 CROSS COUNTRY WORLD CUP TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

1. USSA POLICY

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

2. TEAM SIZE

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

3. START RIGHTS: The quota of start rights per nation is set annually by the FIS.

4. ELIGIBILITY FOR CONSIDERATION

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

5. TEAM SELECTION PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA

The U.S. Ski Team Head Coach is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the oversight of the Chief Executive Officer, Vice President of Athletics, and Nordic Director of USSA. No minimum team size will be established. Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in FIS competitions scored to the FIS points list, World Cup and Olympic competitions held during the 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 seasons, and World Cup Overall, Sprint World Cup, Distance World Cup and SuperTour competitions held between October 1, 2006 and March 1, 2007 (the "selection period"). Discretionary selections, if any, may be based on a variety of factors, including competitions conducted outside of the selection period.

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

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

(b) Objective Criteria. Additional athletes shall be selected to the team based solely upon their competition results during the selection period. Athletes meeting criteria (b) 1-2 shall be selected to the team, unless application of this criteria would result in a total team

size exceeding the FIS quota, in which case USSA shall use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order:

- (a) Most World Cup points
 - (b) Lowest current FIS points (sprint or distance, whichever is lower)
 - (c) Lowest current USSA points
1. Individuals who meet the following criteria will be selected to the World Cup Cross Country Team for World Cup Period 1 (tentatively Oct. 28, 2006 to Feb. 4, 2007):
 - Attain a World Cup Overall or FIS Distance Points List international ranking in the top-60 at the conclusion of the 2005/2006 season.
 - Attain a World Cup Sprint or FIS Sprint Points List international ranking in the top-50 at the conclusion of the 2005/2006 season.
 - The overall leaders of the SuperTour will be able to start in the World Cup competitions according to FIS rules.
 - The overall leaders of the SuperTour will be able to start in the World Cup competitions according to FIS rules.
 2. Individuals who meet the following criteria will be selected to the 2007 World Cup Cross Country Team for World Cup period 3 (tentatively March 10-26, 2007).
 - Attain a current World Cup Overall, Sprint World Cup, Distance World Cup or FIS points list ranking (sprint or distance) within the top-40 on the most current publication at the completion of World Cup Period 2 (tentatively scheduled for Feb. 4, 2007).
 - Finish in the top-25 of an individual event in the 2007 World Championships.
 - The overall leaders of the SuperTour will be able to start in the World Cup competitions according to FIS rules.

APPENDIX VII – USSA 2007 CROSS COUNTRY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

1. USSA POLICY

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

2. TEAM SIZE

In order to ensure that the United States fields a representative team, minimum selected team size shall consist of five (5) athletes per gender.

3. START RIGHTS

Up to four (4) athletes may start for the United States in each event. Athletes who qualify for the team via criteria 5.A will be guaranteed at least one start, if healthy according to paragraph 7, the event to be determined at the discretion of the Head Coach. All other start rights will be determined by the discretion of the Head Coach.

Coaches' Discretion in determining start positions shall include the following considerations:

- A. Previous performances during the 2005 World Championships.
- B. Previous performances in similar competitions during the selection period.
- C. Physical fitness level and level of preparation to compete as determined by training, prior competitions, time trials and training, and laboratory testing.

4. ELIGIBILITY FOR CONSIDERATION

USSA will consider for selection only those USSA members in good standing with valid U.S. passports and a valid FIS license who have met FIS minimum eligibility standards. An athlete shall be ineligible for consideration for team selection or start rights if he/she is not fit to compete at the time selections are made due to any injury or illness from which he/she is not expected to recover adequately by the time of the 2007 World Championships as verified by USSA Medical Staff. Such determination shall be at the discretion of the USSA Vice-President of Athletics, in consultation with the USSA Sports Science staff, the USSA Cross Country Head Coach, the Head Cross Country Physician, and the athlete's designated physician.

5. TEAM SELECTION PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA

The Head Coach is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the approval of the Chief Executive Officer, Vice President of Athletics and Nordic Director of USSA. Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in World Cup competitions held between October 1, 2006 and January 8 (tentative), 2007 (the "objective selection period"). Discretionary selections, if any, may be based on a variety of factors. Representative team selections, if any, shall be based on the USSA National Ranking List, developed from a competitor's best three (3) USSA scored competitions in a discipline (sprint and distance) (in which he/she competed as a USSA member) within the twelve months preceding the date of closing of the selection list on January 9, 2007 (tentative) (the "representative selection period").

(A) Objective Criteria.

Up to eight (8) athletes per gender shall be selected to the team based solely upon their World Cup competition results during the objective selection period. Athletes ranking in the top 60 in the World Cup Overall or the top 50 in the Sprint World Cup standings as of Jan. 8, 2007 shall be selected to the team, unless application of this criterion would result in a total of more than eight (8) objective selections per gender, in which case USSA shall use the following tie-breaking mechanisms in order:

- Most World Cup points in a discipline (distance or sprint)
- Lowest current FIS points.

A maximum of four athletes per gender may be selected according to the Sprint World Cup standings on Jan. 8, 2007.

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

- 1) Outstanding competition results (including any results from the 2005/06 and 2006/07 seasons).
- 2) Recent direction or trend in competition results (i.e., improving, flat, or declining).
- 3) Attitude and commitment of athletes.
- 4) Physical fitness level.
- 5) Illness or injury during the selection period.
- 6) Indicia of medal potential in future Olympic or World Championship competition, which would be materially enhanced by selection to team.
- 7) Other unanticipated failure of objective criteria to select an athlete likely to achieve competition results consistent with USSA program goals for World Championships.

All discretionary selections will be documented and appropriate forms will be available for record keeping purposes. A discretionary selection review group comprised of the President and CEO, the Athletic Director, and the athlete representative from that sport who is a member of the USSA Board will review all discretionary selections. If USSA Board Athlete Representative is also a currently competing athlete then another athlete, who is not actively competing, will be selected by the Athletes' Council at the Fall USSA Board Meeting to be the representative in this group.

(C) Representative Team Selections. If fewer than five (5) athletes per gender are selected to the team based upon both the objective criteria listed above and coaches' discretion, then USSA shall ensure that it fields a representative team by selecting as many additional athletes as may be necessary to bring the total team size up to, but not limited to, five (5) athletes per gender, using the USSA National Ranking List (based on results during the representative selection period). Representative team selections shall be granted to those athletes with the best rankings on the Jan. 11, 2007 (tentative) updated USSA points list, in order, until a representative team is filled.

6. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SELECTIONS

Selections to the 2007 World Championship team shall be announced on January 15, 2007 (tentative) at the offices of USSA in Park City, Utah and shall be published immediately upon announcement.

7. ATHLETE REPLACEMENT PROCEDURE

In the case that an athlete that has been selected to the team becomes injured or ill prior the World Championships and is unable to compete, no replacement athlete will be named unless it is deemed that there is sufficient time to make a replacement without disrupting the competition or preparation of other athletes and that the additional athlete would have

sufficient time to properly prepare for the competition. The Vice President of Athletics for USSA will make this decision after consulting with the President and CEO of USSA, Head Coach, and the USSA Sport Science Department. Should an additional athlete be considered, the procedures as outlined in Section 5.B. above will be followed to select that athlete. No athletes will be named to the team following the conclusion of mandatory training or within five days of the start of the World Championships.